

SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR KINGMAN

- * Return to the prescribing physician
- * Bring to a Mohave County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- * Follow guidelines provided in this pamphlet



For More Information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/needledisposal/az/index.htm

Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality
www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/index.html

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov/wastes/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm

Earth911 / Household Hazardous Waste Section
www.earth911.com

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal
www.safeneedledisposal.org/



Thank you for helping preserve the quality of life in Kingman by following the recommended guidelines for disposal of home generated medical sharps.



Kingman Fire Department

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HOME MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL

Your Guide to Becoming Sharp Smart



Kingman Fire Department

Recommends these practices to help ensure that medical sharps are disposed of in a manner that helps minimize health risks to sanitation, housekeeping and janitorial workers, landfill and recycling personnel, children, pets and everyone in the community.

“Getting to the Point”

Medical sharps are used in many homes to administer medications, such as allergy shots and insulin; and, to monitor physical states such as blood sugar levels. Sharps may also be used in the home for pet inoculations.

Regardless of the type of home use, we need to use care when disposing of sharps. Improper handling and/or disposal of home generated medical sharps can pose serious health risks. Finding ways to safely dispose of used medical sharps is an important public health priority. Needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk and specific actions can be taken to protect yourself and others.

Since “sharps” potentially have disease-carrying blood or other bodily fluids on them, which can live for over a week, they are capable of “injecting” that contaminated blood or fluid into anyone who comes into contact with improperly disposed sharps. Users are strongly encouraged to safely and properly dispose of the sharps.



The Do's.....

- ⇒ DO STORE sharps OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN AND ANIMALS.
- ⇒ DO LABEL sharps containers so that you and others know it is for disposal, “SHARPS, DO NOT RECYCLE.”
- ⇒ DO place sharps in a RIGID, HARD PLASTIC container with a SCREW-ON or TIGHT FITTING LID. HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC laundry detergent bottles work best.
- ⇒ DO choose a container that is PUNCTURE-RESISTANT and LEAK-PROOF. (Plastic milk jugs are not puncture-resistant)
- ⇒ DO place sharps in the container, close the lid tightly and SEAL IT with DUCT TAPE.
- ⇒ Once sharps are safely and properly contained, the SHARP CONTAINER can be DISPOSED of in your REGULAR TRASH CONTAINER.
- ⇒ DO wash your hands after handling or touching medical sharps.
- ⇒ If possible medical sharps should be fully encapsulated prior to disposal. You can add quick drying cement, plaster or similar materials to the container; allow to dry before disposing in the solid waste receptacle.

AND DO NOT'S....

- ◆ DO NOT place medical sharps, such as disposable hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets, loosely in the trash.
- ◆ DO NOT place disposable hypodermic needles, syringes, lancet or ANY other medical-type waste in City of Kingman recycling bin.
- ◆ DO NOT FLUSH disposable hypodermic needles, syringes, lancet or other medical-type waste down the toilet.
- ◆ DO NOT use a clear or glass container.
- ◆ DO NOT over-stuff the containers.

