



Disposing of Medical Sharps

The Pueblo City-County Health Department developed this information sheet to help residents properly dispose of needles and other sharps, therefore minimizing the potential health risks to waste workers and the public. The following are only a few of the many companies that provide disposal services, and with simple research, many others may be found.

- **Mail-back Programs** - Customer calls the company and a sharps container is mailed. The customer fills the container and then ships it back to the company. Usually one price for container and shipping.

Sharps Disposal by Mail

www.sharpsinc.com

Customer service: 1-800-772-5657

Email: sharps@sharpsinc.com

GRP Medical Services

www.sharpsdisposal.com

Phone: 1-800-207-0976

- **At-home Needle Destruction Devices** - Service provides a portable insulin needle destruction device for use by diabetics. Uses a rechargeable battery to deliver an electric current that disintegrates the needles.

Disintegrator Plus

www.quickmedical.com/health/diabetes/needle_disposal.html

Phone: 1-888-345-4858

- **Local Site for Proper Disposal** - The Pueblo City-County Health Department provides a low-cost safe service to help residents of Pueblo County properly dispose of used needles. Please go to the laboratory at 101 W. 9th Street, or call 719-583-4318 for further information. Needles must be in an approved sharps container available for purchase from the health department and at some local pharmacies (a \$4.00 disposal fee is applicable for 1 quart containers purchased at pharmacies). The health department offers an 8.2 quart container for \$15.00 which includes the disposal fee. Prices are subject to change.

The Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal (www.safeneedledisposal.org) comprised of medical, government, waste association and private sector companies, is working with the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate and promote alternative disposal methods for used needles and other medical sharps. In the past, doctors, pharmacists, and hospitals have recommended that patients put their used needles and syringes into either metal or thick plastic containers, securing them with tape, and dispose them into their residential trash waste. Unfortunately, discarded needles may expose waste workers to potential needle stick injuries and infection when containers break open inside garbage trucks or needles are mistakenly sent to recycling facilities. Used needles can transmit serious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis. If you are currently or planning to dispose of your needles, syringes and other medical sharps with your residential trash service, please contact your trash hauler, and check if this disposal method is allowable by their company.