

Traveling with Needles:

Don't forget, safe needle disposal is important no matter where you are. Never place used needles in the trash in hotel rooms, on airplanes, or in public restrooms where they could cause serious injury.

Sharps and Air Travel:

Before you fly, check the Transportation Security Administration website for up-to-date rules on what to do with your needles when traveling. To make airport security easier, make sure your medicines have a drug store label, and bring a letter from your doctor. Never hesitate to ask about options for safe disposal when you make travel reservations, board an airplane, or check into a hotel or cruise ship. If you aren't sure that needle containers will be available where you're going, be sure to bring a travel sized one with you.

We Want to hear from you!

Please reach out to us with any specific needles & sharps questions you have!

Contact us at: info@ecomaine.org

207-773-1738

Or stop by at:

64 Blueberry Road, Portland, ME

It is also recommended that:

Items like **Soiled Bandages**,
Disposable Sheets and **Medical Gloves**

Should be placed in a *securely fastened plastic bag* before you put them into the garbage can with your other trash.

It is important to note that businesses and medical professionals have different requirements for disposal of medical waste. Please consult Maine's Office of the Department of Environmental Protection for more information.

Important Resources

Maine DEP: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/biomedical/index.html>

Environmental Protection Agency:
<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/medical-waste>

TSA: www.tsa.gov

ecomaine RECYCLOPEDIA



Wondering what you should do with that item you have? Check out the ecomaine RECYCLOPEDIA App! With over 1,000 everyday items to search from, find your recycling answers at ecomaine.org/RECYCLOPEDIA

You can even test your skill with our *Wicked Smaht Recycler* sorting game!



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Safe Handling and Disposal for Needles & Sharps



DO NOT RECYCLE SYRINGES

You can help to prevent injuries, illnesses and pollution by following some simple steps when disposing of the sharp objects and contaminated materials used in administering medications in your home



Container:

By law, you must choose a rigid, leak-proof and puncture resistant container such as a hard-plastic bottle with a screw on lid. Liquid detergent bottles are a perfect example of this type of container and they have a convenient large opening.

Use:

Store the container near where the sharps are generated. Be sure to keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of children. You should place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in this container.



Proper Container Disposal:

1. Label container with masking or duct tape: **DO NOT RECYCLE**
2. Make sure the lid is screwed on tightly and secured with tape
3. Dispose of in regular trash

DO NOT put sharp objects in any container that will be recycled or returned to a store. **DO NOT** use glass, clear plastic containers or a milk jug or carton to prevent accidental breakage, needle sticks or reuse for illicit purposes.

DO NOT recycle your plastic containers containing syringes.

When the container is 3/4 full, put the lid on, seal it with duct tape, and label **DO NOT RECYCLE**.



For more information see: www.ecomaine.org/recyclopeda