

SHARPS

DISPOSAL AND SAFETY FOR LIVESTOCK SETTINGS

Livestock-related sharps are considered **medical waste**.

If not disposed of properly, sharps pose a significant **risk of injury and illness** to farmers, on site workers and waste handlers.



Visit [SafeNeedleDisposal.org](https://www.SafeNeedleDisposal.org) for guidance on how to safely dispose of used sharps in your area.

Sharps disposal rules can vary by state, county, and city.

1 STORAGE

- After sharps have been used, **immediately** place them in a sharps disposal container.
- If an FDA approved container is not available, use a laundry detergent bottle as an alternative.
- **Do not** use milk jugs or pop bottles.
- **Label the container** "Sharps - Do not recycle" to warn of hazardous waste inside.

CONTAINERS



All sharps disposal containers should be:

- » made of heavy-duty plastic and leak-proof
- » closed with a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid
- » upright and stable during use

2 DISPOSAL

- Dispose of your container when it is 3/4 full.
- Render the contents inactive (*e.g. pour bleach into the container before sealing*).
- Seal it with duct tape before disposal.
- **Do not** reuse sharps disposal containers.
- **Do not** recycle.

BEST

- » Check to see if your local landfill accepts medical waste.
- » Use a mail back system.

GOOD

- » Contact your local veterinarian or health department for assistance.

ACCEPTABLE

- » Dispose of sharps in household trash using a laundry detergent bottle that is labeled and secured with duct tape.

VIEW OUR NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION RESOURCES AT [UMASH.UMN.EDU/NEEDLESTICK](https://umash.umn.edu/needlestick)



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