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Disposal Tips for Home Health Care

You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home. You should place:

- Needles,
- Syringes,
- Lancets, and
- Other sharp objects

In a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid.

A coffee can will do, but you should be sure to reinforce the plastic lid with heavy-duty tape. Do not put sharp objects in any container that will be recycled or returned to a store. Do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Finally, make sure that you keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of young children.

We also recommend that:

- Soiled bandages,
- Disposable sheets, and
- Medical gloves

be placed in securely fastened plastic bags before you put them in the garbage can with your other trash.

