

Guidelines for Safe Drug Disposal

- ❖ Follow any specific disposal instructions on the prescription drug labeling or patient information that accompanies the medicine.
- ❖ Do not flush medicines down the sink or toilet.
- ❖ Take advantage of community medication drop-off disposal programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Call your city’s residential trash and recycling service office to see if a program is available in your community. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, working with state and local law enforcement agencies, periodically sponsors [National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days](#). 
- ❖ If no disposal instructions are given on the prescription drug labeling or no take-back program is available in your area, drugs may be disposed in the household trash following these steps:
 - Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all personal information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information. Empty plastic bottles can be placed in curbside recycling.
 - Remove the medication from its original containers, place it in a sealable bag or container, and mix it with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. This makes the drug less appealing to children and pets and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through the trash seeking drugs.
 - Place the sealed container or bag in your household trash container.

Drop-Off Locations and Mail-Back Programs

Certain pharmacies will accept unused and expired medications directly from residents and dispose of them properly. Other pharmacies provide mail-back programs to assist residents with proper disposal. Some local pharmacies providing drop-off or mail-back programs include:

Drop-Off Locations	Community Pharmacy 4400 Teasley Lane Denton 76210 940-382-1618	Flower Mound Pharmacy 1001 Cross Timbers Road #1170 Flower Mound 75028 972-355-4614
	PeopleFirst Pharmacy 2501 E. Hebron Pkwy 100A Carrollton 75010 972-300-4130	Trinity Pharmacy 1925 E. Rosemeade Pkwy Carrollton 75007 972-492-4411
Mail-Back Programs	http://www.sharpsinc.com/locations/ Visit the website to locate pharmacies that participate in your city. Includes many Walgreens, CVS, Kroger, Tom Thumb pharmacies.	Various pharmacies sell Sharps Compliance, Inc. mail-back envelopes for consumers to mail unused medications directly to Sharps Compliance for proper disposal. Envelope cost is around \$4. Check the website for more info or ask your pharmacy if they participate.
Municipal Drop-Off Sites	City of Denton Police Department 601 E. Hickory Street Denton 940-349-8700	City of Highland Village Police Department 1000 Highland Village Road Highland Village 75077 972-317-6551

SAFE DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

Properly managing and disposing of household generated sharps not only reduces pollution to the environment, it prevents injury and disease transmission from needle sticks. Texas regulations do not provide written recommendations for sharps disposal. However, individuals who use syringes at home are responsible for ensuring their used syringes are stored and disposed in a way that does not cause a health hazard. To safely dispose of used needles, lancets, and syringes, use one of the options listed below.

Mail-Back Programs

Unless there is a sharps collection program available in a community, the best option for sharps storage and disposal is to purchase a sharps container that is part of a mail-back program. Mail-back programs allow home users to mail used sharps to licensed disposal facilities. These programs charge a fee for this service. There are several companies in Texas that offer mail-back programs:

Sharps Compliance, Inc.
Phone: 800-772-5657
www.sharpsinc.com

Waste Management MedWaste Tracker
Phone: 866-931-6321
www.thinkgreenfromhome.com

Oncore Technology
Phone: 972-786-7060
www.oncoreus.com

Stericycle
Phone: 866-783-7422
www.stericycle.com

Note: This list is not intended to be an endorsement of particular vendors, and there may be other vendors who offer similar services.

Trash Disposal

While it is legal in Texas to dispose of sharps in your household trash, doing so requires special effort on the part of the user to prevent injury to sanitation workers and others who might come in contact with the trash container. Follow these guidelines to ensure you are doing everything you can to prevent injury to others:

- Never place loose needles and syringes in the trash.
- Use a destruction device made specifically for sharps to clip needles.
- Never place containers with used needles or syringes in a recycling bin.
- Do not place sharps in containers with a Biohazard label on the outside of the container in the trash since waste haulers will not pick up biohazard material with regular residential trash.
- If placing sharps in the trash, do not use a sharps container you purchase from a pharmacy or other retailer. Sharps containers are designed to be used only for mail-back programs. Instead, use an empty laundry detergent bottle with a screw-on lid.
- Always keep storage containers for used sharps out of the reach of children and pets.