

# WHAT ARE SHARPS?

---

**Sharps** are health care and medical items that might cause injury and infection to anyone who encounters them – including caregivers, sanitation workers, solid waste and recycling personnel, and others.

## Sharps include:

- Needles
- Syringes
- IV tubing with needles attached
- Scalpels and razor blades
- Lancets and diabetic supplies
- Glass plates and slides

**Our waste stream** – your household waste – is no place for these dangerous items! In many states, it is illegal to dispose of sharps in the household trash. In Arkansas, it is up to you to care about the welfare of people you may never even meet.

**Please do your part.** Never throw needles or other “sharps” in the trash. Dispose of responsibly!

# Which Option?

## Mail-In Programs

---



**\$50-\$80 per year**  
(Est.)

Convenient, low cost, and secure disposal of sharps.

## At Home Destruction Devices

---



**One-time cost**  
**\$50-\$90** (Est.)

Convenient, one-time initial cost.

## Carroll County Residents

---

The Carroll County Solid Waste Authority accepts sharps for disposal in approved containers at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center in Berryville. Call for information:

(870) 423-7156 or (479) 253-2727

---

Northwest Arkansas Economic  
Development District, Inc.  
Highway 62-65-412 North  
P.O. Box 190  
Harrison, Arkansas 72601-0190  
(870) 741-5404  
<http://www.nwaedd.org>



**DANGER**

Every Used Needle Is  
A Two-Edged Sword!



**Injury!**      **Infection!**

Learn the Facts about  
**Responsible  
Disposal!**

# WHAT IS THE DANGER?

---

**In Arkansas**, numerous sanitation workers, recycling personnel, and waste handlers suffer needle sticks each year!

**Imagine their panic!** Besides the injury, they must now undergo a series of tests lasting for months to find out if they have been exposed to a blood-borne infection such as HIV or Hepatitis. It's frightening!

Family members, children, even pets are vulnerable!



**Don't let anyone be a victim!**

Even when disposed in so-called "approved" containers, needles and other dangerous medical items can find their way to exposure.

# OUR RESPONSIBILITY

---

**It is estimated** that between eight and nine million people use syringes at home, generating two to three billion needles each year in the United States. Most people are injecting for medicinal purposes such as diabetes.

**Keep needles and other "sharps" out of the trash**



**...and OUT of the waste stream!**

**Never dispose of "sharps" by**

- Throwing loosely in the garbage
- Placing into cardboard or paper containers, soda bottles, milk jugs, or other unapproved containers
- Flushing down the toilet.

# DISPOSAL OPTIONS

---

**Mail-in Disposal Services.**

There are a number of mail-in disposal services that provide approved containers for storing and disposing of sharp items. Ask your pharmacist, search the internet, contact the Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal at 1-800-643-1643 or visit [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)

For a moderate cost, these organizations will send you secure storage containers, approved mailing containers, pay shipping both ways, and issue a Certificate of Destruction when your needles and other "sharps" have been destroyed!

**Needle Destruction Devices**

are now available at a reasonable cost. These render needles and lancets harmless, and the practice, as opposed to disposal by any other means, is now recommended by the EPA. Destroy your needles at home...no danger, no problem!

**If you use needles or other sharps, please use one of these safe, responsible options.**