

# Important Safety Notice

During the past year there has been a marked increase in the number of needles and syringes found in the recyclables we process. In the past six months alone, over ten (10) of our employees have been pricked by an illegally discarded needle.

Workers exposed to improperly discarded syringes face not only the risk of a painful stick, but also the danger of contracting a disease such as HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B or C. All needle-stick injuries must be treated as if the needles were infected with a disease. Treatments and re-testing are taken over a 6-month period.

Even if injuries do not cause infection, they can have significant psychological and financial impact on the person who may wait days or weeks to know if he or she has contracted a disease.

It should be noted that it is illegal for any person (home generated) or Medical Facility to dispose needles or syringes where the needle can potentially come in contact with another person (N.J.S.A. 2A:170-25.17). Violators can be fined and/or imprisoned. Please note that it is illegal to dispose of needles and syringes with recyclables.

Unfortunately, many residents are misinformed with regards to the proper disposal of needles and syringes. We are asking your help in informing and re-educating the public about proper disposal of needles and syringes.

For your review we have attached a copy of the NJ information sheet on safe syringe disposal. This sheet explains clearly how to properly dispose of sharps. This information should be disseminated to residents.

If there are any questions do not hesitate to contact us. Your anticipated cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

101 7th Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055  
Tel: 973-614-9600  
Fax: 973-614-1663



[AtlanticCoastRecycling.net](http://AtlanticCoastRecycling.net)

101 Memorial Drive  
Neptune, NJ 07753  
Tel 732-897-7711  
Fax 732-431-1744

# New Jersey Resources

## New Jersey Addictions Hotline

- 1-800-238-2333 or 211
- Hotline is available 24/7.
- Trained telephone specialists educate, assist, interview and/or refer individuals and families battling addictions.
- Calls are free and confidential.
- [www.nj.gov/humanservices/das/home/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/das/home/index.html)
- [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)

## New Jersey Safe Syringe Disposal Guide

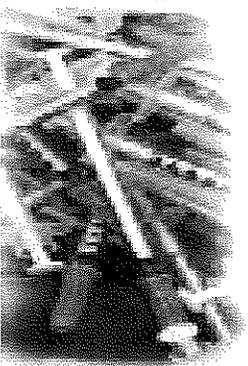
- [www.nj.gov/health/phss](http://www.nj.gov/health/phss)

## New Jersey HIV/AIDS Hotline

- 1-800-624-2377
- Information about HIV/AIDS and other related information, including syringe access programs.
- [www.nj.gov/health/aids/index.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/health/aids/index.shtml)

**NJHealth**  
New Jersey Department of Health

*Safe  
Syringe  
Disposal*



Consumer, Environmental &  
Occupational Health Service  
PO Box 369  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 826-4941

[www.nj.gov/health/phss](http://www.nj.gov/health/phss)

(609) 826-4941

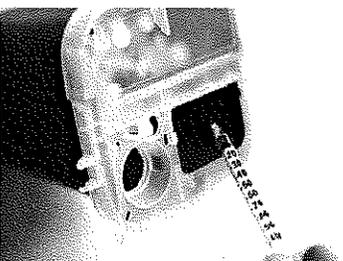
[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

## Safe Syringe Disposal

New Jersey Statute NJSA 2C:36-6 et seq. permits persons age 18 years and older (with valid photo ID) to legally possess up to 10 hypodermic needles and syringes without a prescription from licensed pharmacies. The statute also requires safe disposal of the needles and syringes to avoid injury or disease transmission:

Improper disposal of needles and syringes may cause risks to others. Used needles and syringes can transmit HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other diseases.

Loose needles, syringes and other medical sharps should be collected in heavy-duty plastic containers. Never flush them down the toilet, place in recycling bins or in household garbage. This can be a source for disease transmission to both humans and animals.



## Disposing of Syringes and Needles Safely

Used needles and injecting equipment are dangerous to other people and pets if not disposed of safely. They can injure people and spread infection.

To dispose of used syringes and needles safely:

1. Place used syringes and needles into a FDA-approved sharps container or into a heavy-duty plastic container, such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle. The bottle should be sturdy, puncture-resistant and should not leak.
2. Close the screw-on lid tightly and label the sealed container as "**Do Not Recycle- Contains Sharps**".
3. Don't use coffee cans as plastic lids can come off easily. Don't use glass bottles which may break.



Do NOT put a plastic container with used needles and syringes out with the recyclables.

Do NOT try to remove, bend, break or recap needles used by another person. This can lead to accidental needle sticks, which may cause serious infections.

Pet owners who use needles to give medication to their pets should follow the same disposal guidelines used for humans.

Check with your local health, sanitation or public works department or trash collector before you dispose of used needles and syringes in your household trash.

*The New Jersey Safe Syringe Disposal Guide* provides information for individuals who use syringes, needles or other equipment about proper disposal of these items. To get a copy of *The Guide* call the NJ Department of Health's Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program at (609) 826-4941 or go to [www.nj.gov/health/phss](http://www.nj.gov/health/phss).

Many hospitals accept used needles and syringes when put in containers using the steps listed. Refer to the Safe Syringe Disposal Guide for specific locations and contact information.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) website has more information for the safe disposal of needles, syringes and other medical sharps at: [www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal](http://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal)