

The Sharps Disposal Program

The Manatee County Sharps Disposal Program is designed to be a community service to assist the residents of Manatee County with a safe and environmentally sound method for disposing of used needles or "sharps."

The improper disposal of sharps threatens the safety of every member of the community, as they may be contaminated with hepatitis, HIV, and/or other serious diseases. The risk of injury or harm is very real and very frightening.

If you have a medical condition that requires the use of injected medications, please make the extra effort to participate in this free program. While helping prevent accidental needle sticks in our community, you may also be protecting yourself from liability.



Manatee County Health Department
Environmental Health Services
410 Sixth Avenue East
Bradenton, Fl. 34208
(941) 748-0747

HOW DO I *DISPOSE OF* USED NEEDLES AND SYRINGES?



**The Manatee County
Sharps Disposal Program
For Residential Use Only**



WHERE DO I GO?

The Environmental Health Services Division of the Manatee County Health Dept. can assist you with this disposal.

We are located at:
216 6th Ave East, Bradenton
(NOTE: our doors actually face 8th Ave E)

We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Any staff member in Environmental Health can assist you. They will receive the needles (sharps) from you and give you a new "Sharps Container" to use.

Please do not leave the container you bring in unattended!



DO I HAVE TO HAVE A SPECIAL CONTAINER OR PACKAGE MY NEEDLES IN ANY PARTICULAR WAY?

If you do not have an official used sharps container, please package your used needles in a THICK plastic container; such as, a fabric softener bottle, a laundry detergent bottle, a bleach bottle, or a metal coffee can. Make sure the lids are in place and sealed shut with tape.

Label the container with your Name, Address, and Phone Number, and you are ready to bring it in.

Below are types of containers **NOT** to use because they are too thin!

Milk or juice jugs, 2-liter soda bottles, plastic baggies, paper bags, etc.

REMEMBER:

- Used needles (sharps) should NOT be thrown away in your regular garbage where they can put people in our community at risk.
- Keep your filled sharps container out of the reach of children.
- Dispose of your syringes intact into the sharps container.
- When the container is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full, permanently close the top, tape it and label it with your Name, Address and Phone Number.
- Bring the container in to us and receive a new one at no charge to you.
- Participation in this program is your way of improving public health and safety!

THIS PROGRAM IS BEING PROVIDED FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR ONLY.

All professionals and businesses that generate used needles or sharps are regulated under the state biomedical waste laws and may not participate.