

# Safe Sharps Disposal in Rhode Island

Each year, people are seriously injured by improperly discarded sharps.

Trash handlers are at highest risk for injury, but small children and pets could also be injured. Proper disposal of needles and lancets prevents environmental pollution and protects people and pets from accidental injury.

## Step ONE: Prepare Your Sharps

- Put sharps into a sharps container immediately after use. Syringes with attached needles should be disposed of with the needle still attached. **Do not try to remove, bend, break, or recap the needle.**
- If you do not have a sharps container, put items into a puncture-proof plastic bleach, detergent, or coffee container, tape shut, and label "SHARPS." **Do not use a glass container, soda can, juice bottle, or milk container for sharps.**
- Always make sure you store sharps containers safely away from children and pets until **you are ready to dispose of them.**



## Step TWO: Choose An Approved Disposal Method

The RI Resource Recovery Corporation accepts properly prepared sharps through the Eco-Depot program.

- Make an appointment for one of RIRRC's Saturday Eco-Depot collection events by visiting [www.ecodepotri.org](http://www.ecodepotri.org) or by calling 942-1430 x 241
- Keep sharps in the front seat of your vehicle, separate from any other hazardous waste you might be bringing to the collection.
- Notify an attendant that you have sharps, and you will be instructed on where to place your properly prepared sharps container.



The RI Department of Health and the RI Department of Environmental Management also approve the disposal of properly prepared sharps in the landfill:

- Put the sealed container into the center of a full, preferably dark, trash bag.
- Put the trash bag in the regular trash.
- **Do not put sharps containers in your recycling.**



Questions?  
942-1430 x 241