Package needles and lancets safely:

- Recap your own discarded sharps or clip the needle points.
- Put the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid or cap.
- Clearly label the container with the words “bio-hazard,” “infectious waste,” or “sharps.”
- When the container is full, seal it and dispose of it safely with one of the options below.

What are the dangers of used sharps?

Used needles and lancets can stick waste disposal workers when they are thrown away in the trash or recycling, brought to medication collections, or flushed down the toilet. Any worker accidentally stuck with a needle must get expensive medical testing and worry about the possibility of harmful or deadly diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV. However, needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk. Package and dispose of sharps safely to avoid exposing yourself and others to harm.

For more information on managing medical sharps, go to dnr.wi.gov and search “healthcare waste.”