



How should I dispose of used needles or sharps?

You should use a sharps bin to dispose of used needles or sharps. A sharps bin is a specially designed rigid box with a lid that's available from many locations from your GP to your pharmacist and including amazon. When the bin is full the lid is then closed and locked ready for collection and disposal.

Used needles

Used needles must not be bent or broken before disposal, and you must never try to recap a needle. Once a needle has been used put it safely in the sharps bin.

What goes in a sharps bin?

You can use your sharps bin to dispose of medical supplies such as:

- needles
- syringes
- lancets used with finger-pricking devices

Never put your hand in a sharps bin or try to recover a used needle, make sure that you do not over fill your sharps bin and keep to the fill line marked on the bin.

Disposing of your full sharps bin

To arrange for disposing of a full sharps bin you can contact your local council to ask about waste collection in your area or take out a contract with a commercial cleaning company such as Janitorial Direct.

Don't use other bins

Never put used or unused needles and sharps in your general waste, this can cause needle stick injuries and could be life threatening.



Sharps Bin

What colour should I use?

Sharps bins come in a selection of colours which defines what can be stored in them and how they are disposed of.

Orange lid range is used for the disposal of sharps, needles and prefilled syringes that have not been contaminated with cytotoxins.



Purple lid range is used for the disposal of sharps, needles and syringes that have been contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines.



Clinical waste should not be put into sharps bins but a yellow clinical waste bag and disposed of with the same team who arrange your bins for collection.