

# Protect Your Trash Collector, Dispose of Needles Properly!



*Did you know?*

How you discard a needle has a big impact on trash collectors and their families.

Each accidental needlestick requires HIV and hepatitis testing - not to mention the stress of waiting for test results.

## Safe Needle Disposal Is Easy

Use hard- wall containers with lids.

- Laundry detergent and bleach bottles, peanut butter jars, etc. It is OK to dispose of a container with needles without the need to recycle the plastic bottle. The risk posed by the sharps out weighs the need to recycle the bottle.

The thicker the wall, the safer the container.

- Avoid thin plastics, like soda bottles - they are easily pierced

Do not use glass containers.

- These can break and cause a greater hazard

Never throw loose needles in the garbage

- Protruding or falling needles endanger trash collectors

Always place needles in a  
puncture-resistant container  
with a tight lid before disposal.



**DEQ Division of Waste Management**

Correct



Incorrect



Waste Management  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY