

DID YOU KNOW?

- A number of pathogens that are found in blood products and bodily fluids can cause serious or fatal infections.
- These organisms can be introduced into the bloodstream of a healthy individual through the skin via a contaminated sharp.
- The pathogens that pose the most serious health risks are:
 - Hepatitis B (HBV)
 - Hepatitis C (HCV)
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS
- You may not become sick immediately after an injury. You can be infected for months or years without knowing it.
- If you contact Hepatitis C, you will likely become a carrier with a high risk of developing cirrhosis and/or cancer of the liver.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Never re-cap needles
- Use sharps with safety features
- Immediately discard used sharps in a puncture-resistant sharps disposal container.
- If you find a sharps hazard, take steps to eliminate it.

Thousands of needles and syringes are being disposed of everyday. By properly disposing these needles and other sharps you can:

- Promote home health and safety
- Ensure child health and safety
- Prevent recirculation of needles and syringes for illegal use
- Help prevent pollution
- Provide a safer environment for waste disposal workers.

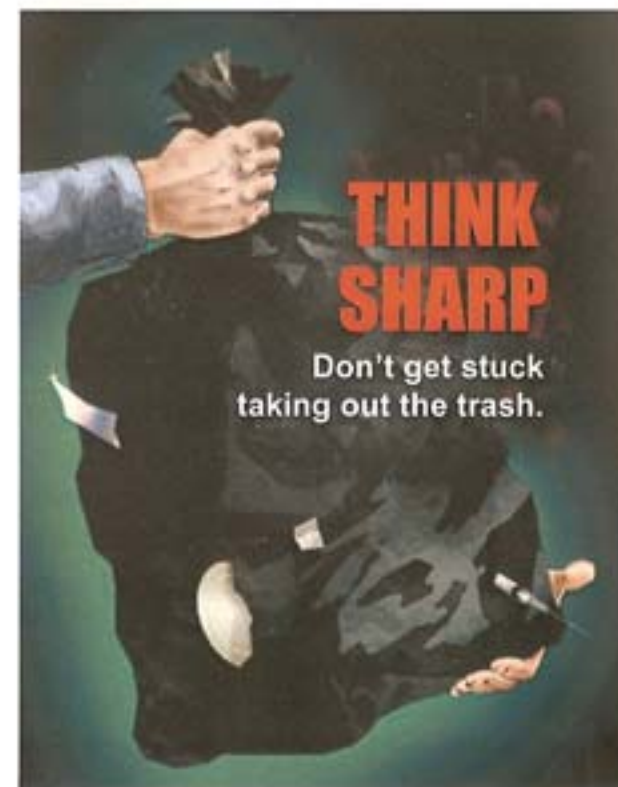
SHARPS INCLUDE:

- Needles (hypodermic, blood collection, suture, intravenous)
- Razor Blades
- Scalpel Blades
- Lancets

If you have any questions about sharps disposal, please contact us at (319) 753-8126, toll free 800-216-8126, or e-mail us at publiced@interl.net.

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Be smart with your sharps disposal.



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SHARPS DISPOSAL INFORMATION

QUESTION: Why is there a concern over the disposal of "sharps" materials?

ANSWER: Because someone coming into contact with "sharps" materials has no way of knowing the origin or purpose of the material. Accidental sticks from sharps are costly to treat, with potential costs from one stick exceeding \$500,000. Accidental needle sticks can spread over 20 blood borne diseases (such as HIV, Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C), cause physical and emotional trauma, and can be fatal.

Residents and businesses within the DMC Waste Commission are reminded that proper care needs to be observed when disposing of items considered as "sharps". These items include, but may be limited to, diabetic needles, syringes, and lancets.

Some area towns have restrictions on sharps disposal. For example, Burlington area residents need to know that it's violation of



city code (chapter 105 of Solid Waste Control) to dispose of items considered as "sharps" in their regular trash. Please refer to the following chart for information on proper options.

SHARPS DISPOSAL CHART



BURLINGTON AREA

The Des Moines County Health Department gives out sharps containers to all who request them and accepts full containers at no charge-no questions asked.

BURLINGTON AREA PHARMACIES & MEDICAL SUPPLY STORES

BUSINESS	TELEPHONE	SELLS CONTAINERS	ACCEPTS / FEE?
Heritage Park & Family Rx	(319) 768-3950	Y	Y / N (accepts only in container they sold in)
Hy-Vee Rx	(319) 752-2773	Y	N / N
First Medical	(319) 753-2802	Y	Y / N (no charge to return full container)
Heritage Medical Supply	(319) 768-4300	Y	Y / N

MT. PLEASANT AREA

BUSINESS	TELEPHONE	SELLS CONTAINERS	ACCEPTS / FEE?
Drug Town / Mt. Pleasant	(319) 385-3163	Y	Y (all containers) (no fee- customers only)
Whaleys / Mt. Pleasant	(319) 385-4849	N	Y / N (gives customer container on request)

Great River Regional Medical Center, the Henry County Health Center, and the Henry County Department of Public Health **will not** accept sharps materials from the public.