



FACT SHEET

!!Home Medical Waste is not accepted at the Collection Center at this time!!

Home Medical Waste

Hazards

- May infect other people who come in contact with trash.
- Unwanted or expired medicines or pharmaceuticals could be harmful to children or adults.
- Antibiotics poured down the drain can kill beneficial microbes and bacteria in septic systems and may adversely affect fish and other marine organisms.

Handling

- Keep sharp objects such as needles, syringes, and lancelets in secure containers out of the reach of children. Do not use glass.

Management Options

- By law, once a prescription has been issued, the pharmacy cannot take it back.
- See MassDEP's [instructions for safe disposal of unwanted medications](#)
- MassDEP suggests that individuals who have received cancer treatment drugs or radioactive medicines should follow specific instructions issued by the hospital on disposal of radioactive waste materials.
- MassDEP suggests that you Place disposable sheets, medical gloves, and soiled bandages in plastic bags and securely close before you put them in the trash.
- For disposal of medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets, see the [Proper Use and disposal of Syringes](#) compiled by the Department of Public Health, which includes a listing of local collection sites in Massachusetts. These sites include municipal government offices, hospitals, medical offices and pharmacies. Several of the companies listed below pickup disposed sharps from these local facilities and also can direct you to one in your community or area.
- If no sharps collection program is available, you may be able to purchase a postage paid mail back container to have your sharps disposed through a medical waste incinerator. Several of the companies below have mail-back programs for sharps and they provide a variety of container sizes with prepaid mailing cartons. When the container is full, it can be placed in its carton and mailed directly to their designated facility for incineration.

Business Name & Location	Telephone
United Medical Waste Management, Inc.	508-234-2400

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

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