

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Proper Disposal of Sharps

To protect waste handlers, the public and the environment, Wisconsin state law requires that discarded syringes, lancets and other sharps be kept separate from household garbage. For proper disposal, the sharps must be sealed in an appropriate labeled container. In Dunn County free sharps containers are available at the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center, any Dunn County Area Collection Station, the Dunn County Solid Waste Division office, Dunn County pharmacies and clinics, and Bremer Bank in Knapp.

Any other acceptable sharps container must be rigid and puncture resistant with a secure lid or cap, such as a laundry detergent bottle. Pop or water bottles, milk jugs, aluminum coffee cans with plastic lids, cardboard containers or plastic bags are not appropriate and pose a hazard to handlers. Makeshift sharps container must be clearly labeled as "Medical Waste" so there is no confusion as the contents. Non-labeled containers can easily be mistaken as regular waste or as a recyclable, creating a health hazard for both waste handlers and the public.

Full sharps containers may be disposed of at any area collection station or the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Replacement sharps containers are available for free at the time of disposal at the Transfer Station and area collection stations only. This program is available only to residents with one container being picked up at a time. Funding for this program is not intended to subsidize sharps containers or disposal for businesses such as: nursing homes, clinics, hospitals, assisted living homes or treatment centers. For large or multiple generators of sharps, please contact Stericycle at (715) 835-6250.

For more information on sharps containers or sharps disposal, please contact the Dunn County Solid Waste Division at 715-232-4017.