



What can patients put into the Sharps bin?

- Lancets
- Needles and syringes
- Full needle clippers
- Needles from insulin pen devices

What should not go into the Sharps bin?

- Injection vials
- Insulin pen devices with the needles removed
- Batteries
- Aerosols
- Tablets
- Razors
- Dressings

Useful Advice

- If your patients have diabetes, any used pens and cartridges (with the needles clipped off), vials and used test strips can be disposed of in your normal bin.
- Ask their Pharmacist which Sharps bin is best for them.
- NEVER share syringes or finger pricking devices.
- NEVER re-cap needles.
- Do not store their Sharps bin on the floor, or above shoulder height.



Managing Prescribed Sharps Safely

Important information for healthcare professionals who -

- Give medication using a needle
- Help patients with self testing



If your patient uses a needle to inject prescribed medication or for testing blood, it is their responsibility to dispose of the needles safely.



Needles should only be disposed of in a Sharps bin which is specially designed for this purpose.

How do patients get a Sharps bin?

Their family doctor (GP) can give them a prescription for a sharps bin.

They can also collect one from their **local pharmacy**.

Why do patients need a sharps bin?

A Sharps bin is the safest way to dispose of used Sharps.

Patients can use their Sharps bin to dispose of medical supplies such as:

- Used syringes and devices which have a needle attached
- Used finger pricking devices
- Used insulin pump sharps
- Full needle clipping devices

Using the Sharps bin

- Make sure the lid is securely attached.
- After they have used needles or other similar medical supplies, put them into the Sharps bin immediately. Do not take them out again.
- Bins must only be filled to the black line marked on the bin.
- While their Sharps bin is in use or waiting to be collected, keep it in a safe place so that it is not a risk to others, and out of the reach of children.
- Close the temporary closure on the lid when not in use, but be careful not to fully close the bin.

What should patients do when the Sharps bin is full?

- When the container is filled up to the line, close the lid until they hear it “click” - this means it is locked.
- Lock the bin and write their name and the date on the label.
- Take care when moving the Sharps bin. Patients can only exchange the full bin if it is properly closed and the label completed.
- Patients can take the full bin to their **local pharmacy** and exchange it for a new one.

