This Household Sharps Collection Program is sponsored by the Portage County Solid Waste Department, which appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the participating pharmacies.

For more information about solid waste disposal and recycling in Portage County call the Information Line at (715) 343-6297

This brochure was originally prepared by Recycling Connections Corporation and the WDNR in 1998. This document may be reproduced.

Portage County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) gratefully acknowledge the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for permission to use information from their “Disposal of Household Sharps” brochure.

Please follow all instructions listed in this brochure carefully to assure the safety of your family, the public, and all pharmacy staff and customers.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet is not intended as a substitute for the regulations and statues that apply. Rather, it is a brief summary of the topic. Please consult Wisconsin’s regulations and statutes for more information.

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Sharps (needles, syringes and lancets) that are not properly handled or are improperly discarded can pose a health risk of infections and diseases to family members, sanitation and recycling center workers, and others who might be accidentally stuck by them.

Sharps must be disposed of separately from regular trash or recyclables. The Portage County Solid Waste Department works with local pharmacies to provide a safe and economical collection program only for residents who use sharps at home.

**SHARPS DISPOSAL**

**SIMPLE STEPS TO SAFE PACKAGING**

- **Approved containers**
  - Commercial sharps disposal container on sale at most pharmacies and required by Aurora Pharmacies.
  - A properly labeled, heavy plastic detergent or bleach bottle with a screw-on cap for sealing tightly.

1. Place the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container that can be securely sealed. Do not separate the needle from the syringe.

2. Be sure the container is labeled with the words “bio-hazard,” “infectious waste”, “sharps” or with the bio-hazard emblem. It’s a good idea to label detergent bottles with the words “Do Not Recycle” so that they are not accidentally included with recyclables.

- **Unacceptable containers**
  - DO NOT USE: coffee or other steel cans; glass bottles or jars; aluminum cans; plastic tubs, buckets, milk jugs, soda bottles or bags.

- **Delivering to a collection station**
  - When the container is three-quarters full, sealed and labeled, take it to any of the registered sharps collection stations in Portage County that are listed on the opposite side of this brochure.

  Please call the collection station directly to confirm their hours and procedures.

  Take your sharps container directly to the pharmacy’s checkout for their instructions on where to place the container for collection and disposal.

  Pharmacies will not accept sharps delivered in unacceptable or unlabeled containers.

  **PLEASE NOTE:** COPPS Pharmacies require you to use a commercial container. Call pharmacy for details.