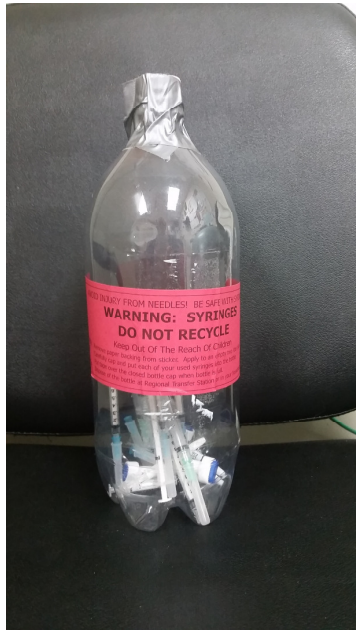


## Other Ideas

Do not put commercial “sharps” containers into your residential trash; they are more likely to shatter under pressure and expose people to loose syringes. Studies indicate that the recommended 2-liter soda bottle and other plastic bottles are able to withstand more stresses around the home and in the landfill.



A safer way to dispose of syringes

## Syringe Disposal Restrictions

This brochure was designed for assistance with disposal of syringes or lancets used in private residences. Wastes produced in healthcare settings are strictly regulated and may not be disposed of in this manner.

This information was prepared by Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services with assistance from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

A reproducible copy of this brochure and container label are online at :  
<http://clallam.net/HHS/PublicHealth/syringeservices.html>



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# GET THE

# POINT



# BE SAFE WITH SYRINGES

# A GUIDE TO SYRINGE DISPOSAL AT HOME

## The Problem

If you use syringes to control diabetes, allergies, or any other medical condition your loose syringes thrown in the trash can hurt people. Your used syringes can pass on germs. Serious diseases can result from an accidental stick with a used syringe.

One of the biggest hazards of being a sanitation worker is the possibility of being stuck with a hypodermic needle while picking up trash bags.

## Syringes Found in Public

If you find a syringe that has been left in public:

1. Wearing gloves pick up the syringe one at a time, by the top (plunger).
2. Drop the syringe point first into a bottle.
3. Put a cap on the bottle.
4. Wash your hands immediately.



## The Solution

A 2-liter Plastic Soda Bottle

**Sticker** - Label the bottle with the warning **“DO NOT RECYCLE”** using either a “pre-made” warning sticker or one that you make.

**Store** - Carefully put each of the used syringes into the bottle.

**Seal** - Put tape over the closed bottle cap when the bottle is almost full.

**Safe Disposal** - Dispose of the bottle at the Regional Transfer Station, 3501 W. 18th Street, Port Angeles or in your household trash.

Now the syringes are held in a container that helps protect people from needle sticks and is unlikely to break open on its way to the landfill.

**WARNING: SYRINGES  
DO NOT RECYCLE**

Sample Warning Label

## Remember

- Keep your containers out of reach of small children and pets!
- Never flush your syringes down the toilet!
- Don't fill your container to the top! Allow two to three inches in-between the syringes and the neck of the bottle.
- Put a lid on it! After you use a syringe or lancet, put it directly in the plastic bottle and put the lid on the bottle.
- Pitch in! When the bottle is almost full, labeled, and tightly sealed, take it to the Regional Transfer Station or throw it out in the trash.

