

## It is also recommended that:

- Soiled bandages,
- Disposable sheets,
- Medical gloves



*Should be placed in a securely fastened plastic bags before you put them in the garbage can with your other trash.*

*It is important to note...businesses and medical professionals have different requirements for disposal of medical waste. Please consult your Maine office of the Department of Environmental Protection for more information.*

## Traveling with Needles

Don't forget, safe needle disposal is important no matter where you are—at home, at work, or on the road. Never place used needles in the trash in hotel rooms, on airplanes, or in public restrooms, where they could injure the cleaning staff or other people.

## Sharps and Air Travel

Before you fly, check the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site ([www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)) for up-to-date rules on what to do with your needles when you travel. To make your trip through airport security easier, make sure your medicines are labeled with the type of medicine and the manufacturer's name or a drug store label, and bring a letter from your doctor.

Be prepared—ask about options for safe needle disposal when you make travel reservations, board an airplane, or check into a hotel or cruise ship. If you aren't sure that needle containers will be available where you're going, be sure to buy a needle container that you can take with you to hold your used needles until you can throw them away the right way.

## Important References:

### Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Attn: Biomedical Waste Program  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017  
207.287.2651

### American Diabetes Association

80 Elm Street  
Portland Maine 04101  
207.774.7717  
1.888.Diabetes  
[www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta GA 30333  
1.800.311.3435



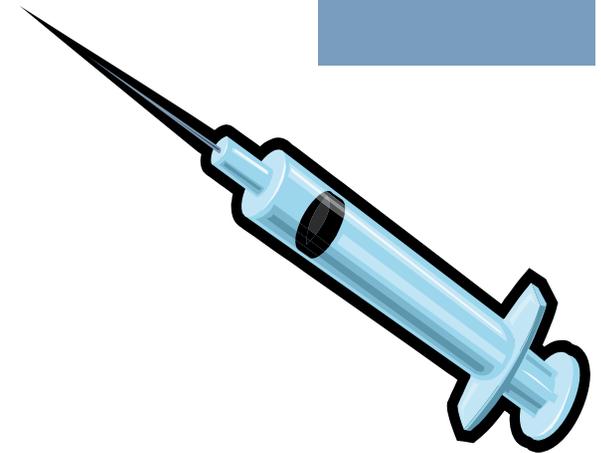
ecomaine is a non-profit waste management company owned and operated by 21 municipalities in Southern Maine. For more information about ecomaine, please see our website at:

[www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org)

64 Blueberry Road  
Portland Maine 04102

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**Tips for Syringe  
Disposal in the  
Home**



ecomaine

[www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org)

**DO NOT RECYCLE SYRINGES!**

You can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when disposing of the sharp objects and contaminated materials used in administering medications in your home.



### **Container:**

By law you must choose a rigid, leak-proof, puncture resistant container such as a hard-plastic bottle with a screw-on or tightly secured lid such as a liquid detergent bottle with a large opening.

### **Use:**

Store the container near where the sharps are generated. Be sure to keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of children. You should place

needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in this container.

### **Container Disposal:**

1. Label container with masking or duct tape: **DO NOT RECYCLE**
2. Make sure the lid is screwed on tightly and secured with tape
3. Dispose of in regular trash

**DO NOT** put sharp objects in any container that will be recycled or returned to a store.

**DO NOT** use glass, clear plastic containers or a milk jug or carton to prevent accidental breakage, needle sticks or reuse for illicit purposes.

**DO NOT** recycle your plastic containers containing syringes.



**For more information see:**

[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/mwpdfs/maine/maine\\_hh.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/mwpdfs/maine/maine_hh.pdf)