

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOME MEDICAL WASTE

**Home Medical Waste Includes..... sharps (needles, syringes, lancets, IV's), soiled bandages, disposable sheets, medical gloves, tubing and intravenous (IV) materials.**

### You Can Help!

You can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of sharps and contaminated materials you use in home health care.

**DO** place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in a **hard plastic or metal** container with a **tightly secured lid**.

**DO** use a laundry detergent bottle or coffee can, but be sure to reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape. Make sure you keep the containers with sharps out of the reach of children.

**DO** seal the container. When the container is full, seal it tightly with heavy-duty tape and **LABEL IT SHARPS** in bold letters, then **PLACE IN THE CENTER OF YOUR GARBAGE BAG, SURROUNDING IT WITH OTHER TRASH**, and discard bag as usual.

**DO** follow your doctor's guidelines for storing and discarding waste after radiation treatments.

**DON'T** use glass bottles to hold medical waste.

**DON'T** put loose medical waste in your garbage.

**DON'T** put medical waste in or next to your recycling bin.

**DON'T** place medical waste next to your garbage.

**DO NOT CLIP OR REMOVE NEEDLES FROM SYRINGES!**

### Please Note:

- Soiled bandages, disposable sheets, gloves, IV bags and such should be placed in securely tied plastic bags before you put them in the garbage can with your other refuse.
- Properly contained medical waste can now go in your garbage and be disposed of safely.
- Recyclable containers that hold medical waste and are labeled as garbage, or (SHARPS if they contain syringes) will be no cause for rejection of the garbage at the landfill.

### Improperly discarded medical waste can:

- Injure trash haulers and landfill workers.
- Contaminate and jeopardize recycling programs
- Be reused and shared by drug abusers, spreading disease.

*As of July 1, 1996, hospitals and nursing homes will accept properly contained home sharps for disposal. Please call the nearest facility for details.*

### For more information:

**Broome County Nanticoke Landfill**  
763-4450

**Broome County Division of Solid Waste Management**  
778-2250

**Broome County Health Department**  
778-8885

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