

Needle Destruction Devices

- Devices or containers with mechanisms that bend, break, incinerate (destroy by high heat), or shear needles are called **sharps needle destruction devices**.
- A destruction device that **incinerates** needles and lancets can be used at home to destroy needles immediately after use. These devices use a few seconds of high heat to melt needles and reduce them to BB-size balls. Once the needle or lancet is destroyed by heat in a destruction device, the remaining syringe and melted metal can be safely disposed of in the garbage (not the recycling container).



A **needle cutter** that automatically stores the cut needles is also useful while away from home when a disposal container is not available. The remains of the syringe after the needle has been clipped can be placed in either a household container or a sharps container (if there is a site available to drop off the sharps container). When the needle clipper is full, simply place it in the storage container (household or sharps container) and dispose of properly.

Proper Sharps Disposal in Nevada & Washoe County



Sharps are needles, syringes or similar devices used for the injection; WCHD requires residents to properly contain sharps prior to disposal.

[Disposal Options Available to Nevada Residents](#)

Nevada state regulators do not provide written recommendations to syringe users for disposing of sharps. However, individuals who use syringes at home are responsible for ensuring that their used syringes are stored in a way that does not cause a health hazards. To safely dispose of used sharps in the state of Nevada, you may use one of the options listed below:

[Washoe County Health District \(WCHD\) Residential Sharps Collection Program](#)

How the Program Works: When a resident contacts the WCHD requesting assistance with the disposal of household generated sharps, the WCHD will offer the resident sharps containers for proper disposal of their sharps. When full the resident is to contact the waste management program to have the full containers replaced with empty ones and ensure the used sharps are properly disposed of. Resources are limited and the Health District reserves the right to end the program if funding is eliminated.

Contact: For more information, contact Environmental Health Services Division at 775-328-2434 or email at healthweb@washoecounty.us.

[Waste Management Washoe County Drop-Off Center](#)

1390 E Commercial Row
Reno, NV 89512
(775) 326-2409

* Any resident of Washoe County can bring in a sharps container and they will dispose of it for FREE! No questions asked.

* Any business can drop off a sharps container and they will dispose of it for a fee (5-6 gallon = \$18.54, 32 gallon = \$32.01)

[Northern Nevada HOPES](#)

580 W. 5th St.
Reno, NV 89503
775-348-2893

(free drop off site of lose syringes with no questions asked)

[Mail-back Programs](#)

Includes everything needed to collect and dispose of medical sharps such as syringes and lancets or other small quantities of medical waste. This sharps container disposal system includes a pre-paid return-mailing box (USPS).

Public Health Alliance for Syringe Access
In conjunction with
Northern Nevada Outreach Team (NNOT)

If you find a dirty syringe in the community call the Northern Nevada Outreach Team at (775) 203-6519