

# Residential Needles & Syringes

- 1) Get a puncture resistant, thick, plastic container such as a laundry detergent container or sharps container. Do not use water bottles or thin plastics.



- 1) Put a **small** hole in the neck of the bottle to allow air to escape.
- 2) Drop syringe needle-first into the container. Fill the container 3/4 full.
- 3) Once 3/4 full, tape the lid closed.
- 4) Label the container and dispose of it based on your location. See below.

## Joint Base Lewis-McChord & Pierce County:

Label the outside of the container with a Biohazard sticker or write “**Sharps—Do Not Recycle**” in bold letters. Dispose of at a transfer station or in your garbage can.

## Thurston County:

Label the outside of the container with “**Sharps Waste**”. Dispose of container in household trash.



## King County:

Label the outside of the container with “**Sharps, Do Not Recycle**”. In the city of Seattle, sharps containers **MUST** be taken to a transfer station for disposal (no fees associated). Outside city limits, containers may be disposed of in household trash as a last resort, emergency option.

**DO NOT RECYCLE!**

*Check with your specific garbage collector and county for more detailed information and up-to-date instructions on residential sharps disposal.*

# Resources

## Take Back Your Meds:

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

## DEA National Take Back:

[www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

## U.S. Food & Drug Administration:

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

## Washington State:

[med-project.org](http://med-project.org)

## Pierce County Sharps Disposal:

[www.co.pierce.wa.us/1535/Needles-Syringes](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/1535/Needles-Syringes)

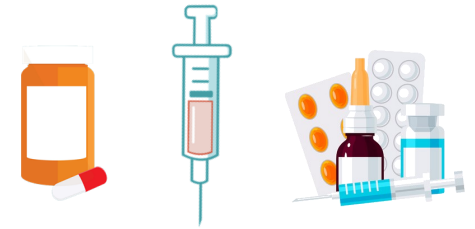
## Thurston County Sharps Disposal:

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/disposal.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/disposal.html)

## King County Sharps Disposal:

[www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/toxins-air-quality/needle-disposal.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/toxins-air-quality/needle-disposal.aspx)

# Safe Disposal of Medications and Residential Needles



This guide provides information on:

- ◇ Medication disposal information for Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- ◇ Medication disposal information for local counties
- ◇ How to manage and dispose of residential needles



**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord**

Joint Base Lewis-McChord  
Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Service

Phone: 253-968-4331

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Joint Base Lewis-McChord  
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## Medication Drop Box & Mail-Back Programs

### MED-Project™



Use MED-Project ([www.med-project.org](http://www.med-project.org)) to search for local medication disposal locations or to sign up for mail-back services.



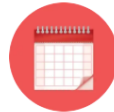
SAFE STORAGE INFORMATION



CONVENIENT LOCATIONS



MAIL-BACK



TAKE-BACK EVENTS

### Medicine Kiosks:

Community kiosk drop-off sites allow you to bring expired or unwanted medicines to convenient locations for proper disposal. You may also go to selected locations to request a Mail-Back Package for expired or unwanted medicines.

To protect your privacy, patients are reminded to remove all personally identifiable information on medication labels or packaging before disposing of expired or unwanted medicines.



**Accepted:** Medications in any dosage form, except for those identified as Not Accepted below, in their original container or sealed bag.

**Not Accepted:** Herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, medical devices, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, sharps, illicit drugs, and pet pesticide products.

### Mail-Back Services:

Mail-back services for expired or unwanted medicines are available, free of charge, to all residents upon request. Mail-Back Distribution Locations may also be available in your area. Medications in any dosage form, except for those identified as not accepted above, in their original container or sealed bag are accepted.

## MedSafe Return Bins

Madigan Army Medical Center has MedSafe medication return bins at the main hospital and clinics. All medications can be dropped off into these bins to include controlled drugs. Sharps are prohibited. The bins are currently located at:

- ◇ Medical Mall—Main Outpatient Pharmacy lobby
- ◇ McChord Clinic
- ◇ Winder Clinic
- ◇ Okubo Soldier-Centered Medical Home
- ◇ Puyallup Community Medical Home
- ◇ South Sound Community Medical Home



### Why should you care about unwanted medication disposal?

1. **Safety**— Improperly disposed of prescriptions or expired prescriptions can be ingested accidentally by children or others, or can be abused in the wrong hands.
2. **Environmental Reasons**— Medications flushed down the toilet or thrown away will pollute the environment, contaminate water supplies, and affect water treatment facilities. Medication take-back programs are much better for the environment.



*Drop box and take-back disposal provide the safest and most environmentally responsible means of prescription drug disposal.*



## Other Disposal Options (Last Resort!)

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state and local governments prefer the use of take-back disposal programs over household disposal. Household disposal should be used only as a last resort.

If unable to dispose of medications at take-back sites, Take Back Your Meds provides instructions for last-resort disposal.

Visit the **Take Back Your Meds** website for more information: <https://www.takebackyourmeds.org/>.



### Last Resort Disposal (Household Trash)

- 1) Keep medication in original prescription container
- 2) Remove label with medication and/or personal information.
- 3) Mix with kitty litter or coffee grounds. Do not crush tabs or open capsules.
- 4) Tape lid closed.
- 5) Place mixture in sealed plastic bag that is not transparent.
- 6) Place in household trash.



**DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS!**