



What Does and Does Not Go in a Sharps Container

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [defines](#) contaminated sharps as contaminated objects that can penetrate the skin, including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires. To prevent sharps injuries, healthcare facilities must ensure sharps are being placed in compliant containers.



DISPOSE IN A SHARPS CONTAINER

- Blood Vials
- Broken Glass or Capillary Tubes
- Culture Dishes and Slides
- Exposed Ends of Dental Wires
- Lancets
- Needles and Hypodermics
- Pipettes
- Root Canal Files
- Scalpel Blades
- Suture Needles
- Syringes With and Without Needles
- Trauma Scene Waste Capable of Cutting, Slicing, or Piercing
- Tubing With Needles



*Please follow all federal, state, and local regulations.



DO NOT DISPOSE IN A SHARPS CONTAINER

- Medication and their packaging
- Tape, paper, bandages, gauze and exam gloves
- Aerosols and inhalers
- Liquids that are not contained
- General waste or packaging materials
- Fluorescein dye
- Cauterizing equipment
- Hazardous and chemical waste
- Radioactive materials
- Fixatives and preservatives
- Red bag waste
- All types of batteries
- Controlled substances
- Alcohol prep pads

It's important to follow these guidelines to maintain safety and compliance with health regulations.

Learn more about how Stericycle's sharps waste management solutions and resources can help protect healthcare providers and the patients they care for.

For further information, visit [stericycle.com](https://www.stericycle.com) or call 800-783-7422