SAFE NEEDLE AND SYRINGE DISPOSAL

What Are Needles and Syringes Used For?
People use needles, syringes and lancets, also called sharps, to treat all sorts of medical conditions at home, including diabetes, allergies, cancer and others. Sharps may also be associated with illegal drug use. Safely disposing of sharps protects residents, sanitation workers and the environment, but more and more frequently they are found improperly disposed of.

What Should I Do If I Find a Needle?
You can report large amounts of discarded sharps by calling 311, or for small amounts dispose of as outlined here.

Follow These Steps for Safe and Proper Disposal:

☑️ Put on gloves and place sharps container on a stable surface near the needle
☑️ Pick up the needle with grabbers/tongs/pliers or tweezers, keeping the needle tip pointed away from you
☑️ Put the needle into a sharps container, bleach or laundry detergent container or plastic peanut butter jar
☑️ Tightly seal the container using tape to secure the top. Do not fill the container more than 2/3 full
☑️ Label container “Sharps - Do Not Recycle” with a waterproof marker
☑️ Keep container away from children and place in regular household trash cart
☑️ Wash hands with soap and water

Equipment You Will Need:
- Gloves - leather utility or vinyl
- Grabbers, tongs, pliers or tweezers
- Sharps container or other rigid plastic container
- Tape
- Waterproof marker

NEVER handle needles with bare hands - assume they are contaminated
NEVER attempt to snap, remove or bend needles, or put the cap back on
NEVER place sharps in a glass or light plastic container or a milk carton that could break or allow needles to poke through
NEVER allow children to handle needles

For More Information:
To learn more about proper disposal of larger quantities of sharps or to find out what the City of Albuquerque is doing about needles in the community, visit us on the web:
www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth/sharps-disposal