COVID-19 has awakened everybody's concerns about infection, from whatever source. For people with diabetes who inject their medications, this concern takes on a special meaning. If not handled properly, used syringes can be a source of infection and the spread of disease. Left in the open where relatives, children, or even pets can accidentally prick themselves, syringes change from being a wonderful tool for managing diabetes into a source of considerable danger.

Fortunately, sharps containers, made of very robust plastic, solve the problem of syringe disposal. Used syringes are dropped into a sharps container, safely removed from posing any danger to health. Adding to the ease of their disposal are drop-off locations in many cities, clinics, and pharmacies.

Manufacturers

**BEMIS/STERICYCLE**

www.stericycle.com/sharps-disposal-containers
The company's sharps container suppliers include name brands, such as Bemis/Stericycle, BD, Hospitec, and Kendall.

**BD**

www.bd.com/diabetes
BD's Home Sharps Container is for insulin syringes, pen needles, and lancets. It can hold 70–100 insulin syringes or up to 300 pen needles. Leak- and puncture-resistant. Snap lock lid.

**MEDLINE**

www.medline.com/category/Sharps-Containers/cat1470091
Medline sells its own line of sharps containers, as well as containers from other sources, such as Kendall, Becton Dickinson (BD), and Sharps Compliance, Inc.

**SHARPS COMPLIANCE, INC.**

www.sharpsinc.com/
Sharps Compliance offers a unique mail-back program where self-injectors can dispose of their sharps in containers provided by the company and then mail them safely back to the manufacturer. The program eliminates worries about where to find authorized disposal sites.

**ULTIMED**

www.ulticare.com/
Under its UltiCare unit, UltiMed sells the UltiGuard® Safe Pack, which comes packed with 100 pen needles or syringes. Once a needle has been used, the user drops it in the top, where it drops and rolls safely out of the way, eliminating the need for a separate sharps container.

Sizes and Types

Sharps containers range from single-use shuttles to large multi-gallon containers used in hospital and institutional settings. Smaller-capacity containers, usually with capacities measured in less than a gallon, are aimed at the home user and self-injectors. A typical example would be BD's Home Sharps Container for insulin syringes, pen needles, and lancets. It can hold 70–100 insulin syringes or up to 300 pen needles. Leak- and puncture-resistant. Snap lock lid.