



BRISTOL-BURLINGTON HEALTH DISTRICT

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Household Waste – Disposal the Safe Way

Household Needle & Syringe (“Sharps”)

- Place used needles and syringes in an opaque, puncture-resistant, hard plastic or metal container such as an empty detergent or bleach bottle
- Put sharps in point-first
- Label the container **Do Not Recycle: Household Sharps**
- Seal the container with its original lid and wrap with heavy duty duct tape
- Place the container in a paper bag and discard with your household trash



Prescription Medicines and Over-the-Counter (OTC) Products

- **Do not flush prescription medicines or OTC products down the sink or toilet!**
- Follow specific disposal instructions on the medication/product label
- If no instructions are given, take the medication out of its original container and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter
- Put the medication/product in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container
- Label the container: **Do Not Recycle: Medicine**
- Place the container in a paper bag and discard with your household trash
- Some chemotherapy medications may have special disposal requirements
- When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist



Ampoules, Vials & IV Bags

- Do not empty or open the medicine container /bag
- Wrap the medicine container/bag with heavy duct tape
- Put in an opaque plastic container such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub
- Wrap the outside of the opaque plastic container with additional duct tape
- Label the container: **Do Not Recycle: Medicine**
- Place the container in a paper bag and discard with your household trash - NOT in your recycling bin



Mercury Thermometers

- Do not put the thermometer in the trash.
- Bring to a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection day or call the public works department for more information