

Recycling needles a 'no no'

Put in a container then in the trash

Updated: Tuesday, 25 May 2010, 6:04 PM EDT
Published : Tuesday, 25 May 2010, 6:04 PM EDT

- Reported by: T.J. Del Santo

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) - Each year, the [Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation \(RIRRC\)](#) recycles millions of items ranging from paper to plastic.

But officials say all too often needles end up there and it's becoming a problem. [The RIRRC said it has become a real problem and they are offering other ways to dispose of your needles.](#) Last Wednesday, however, conveyors had to be shut down 18 times to clear off needles.

- [How To Properly Dispose Your Needles](#)

If a worker happens to get stuck by a needle, they don't see right away, then they're in danger of any number of diseases such as HIV," said Sarah Kite.

Kite of [the RIRRC](#) said a number of safety measures are in place to keep workers safe.

If a needle is spotted workers stop the lines causing lost production time. Officials said instead of putting the needles in the recycling, it is better to throw the needles in the trash.

"It is safe to put them in the trash, but we do want them to be contained....they should be in a container, not loose because that would also pose a hazard for the trash handlers as well."

Sealing any needles in a strong container will ensure the safety of a number of people.

"It's very dangerous for our workers and of utmost importance is the health and safety of the folks who work on the line. There are a lot of people involved, so we want to make sure they're healthy all the time."

Home Generated Medical Waste Mail-back Programs:

Medasend: <http://www.medasend.com/>

Stericycle: <http://www.stericycle.com/consumer-needle-disposal.html>

Sharps, Inc.: http://www.sharpsinc.com/?gclid=CKL8_73P7aECFRlbbQod-GJALA

GRP & Associates: <http://www.sharpsdisposal.com>

MailYourSharps.com: <http://www.mailyoursharps.com/>