



# Important information for improving your environmental footprint

## Why **Reusable** sharps containers are better for the environment.

As healthcare facilities across the United States increasingly focus on reducing the environmental impact of their waste streams (and as environmental impact regulations increase), it is vital to understand the difference between disposing of sharps and pharmaceutical waste in 'reusable' containers, and disposing of them in 'disposable' or 'recyclable' containers.

### Reusable containers

The most environmentally-friendly containers for disposing of sharps and pharmaceutical waste from healthcare facilities are those that are able to be reused many times during their lifetime.

#### Why?

Because when a reusable container is filled, only the waste inside it is destroyed.

The used container is hygienically washed and returned ready for the next use.

Reusable containers therefore produce far greater environmental savings than recyclable or disposable containers.

Each year, for every 100 occupied beds, the Daniels Sharpsmart reusable sharps container:

**Reduces plastic waste** by 7,000 lbs

**Reduces cardboard waste** by 720 lbs

**Eliminates manufacture of disposable containers** by 4,691 units

Source: Sharps container usage data supplied by 103 USA hospitals to Daniels Sharpsmart Inc.

#### Environmental impact:

LOW

### Recycled containers

Reclaiming and using materials from sharps containers is commendable as it reduces their carbon footprint. However, the majority of recycled plastic in sharps containers comes from 'safe' sources such as drink bottles - only a few percent comes from reclaimed sharps containers. And in order to maintain product strength and integrity, the total amount of recycled material is limited to about 20%.

When sharps containers and contents are reclaimed for recyclable materials, a safe method of processing is required. The process must also be commercially viable and produce a quality plastic that container manufacturers will accept. Such processes are complex, involve significant amounts of energy and often large transport distances. Unfortunately, a large percentage of virgin material is still required to make new containers.

Reclaimed material not used in container manufacture may allow an environmental credit, but the fact remains that for every reusable sharps container manufactured 700 disposables are manufactured.

#### Environmental impact:

MODERATE

### Disposable containers

Disposable containers for sharps and pharmaceutical waste are destroyed along with the contents. As a consequence, they are the least environmentally-friendly method of handling sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

#### Why?

A disposable container has a double negative impact on the environment:

1. The disposal process uses valuable energy resources when containers are treated (commonly via incineration or autoclaving) along with their waste contents, and the containers also add to the volume of residual material that ends up in landfills.
2. For every disposable container that is used, another new container must be manufactured as a replacement. This obviously requires a completely new allocation of materials and additional energy resources.

#### Environmental impact:

HIGHEST

Remember, recycled containers are not the same as reusable ones. **To protect the environment, insist on using Reusable containers.**

# Making healthcare safer and our environment greener

The Reusable Daniels Sharpsmart system is arguably the world's safest and most environmentally responsible sharps management system.

## Reusable reduces environmental impact and cost

Reusable means just that – containers are reused and not thrown out. Daniels Sharpsmart containers are automatically emptied, hygienically cleaned to exceed infection control requirements, and returned to your facility.

That means your environmental impact is minimized, and you are not paying for the manufacture of new containers – environmentally responsible, and very cost-effective.

## Safer and more secure for staff and patients

The most important requirement of a sharps container is safety.

The Daniels Sharpsmart container is recognized world-wide as a leader in safety, and incorporates many intelligent features that significantly reduce the risk of sharps injuries to your staff and patients.

The secure-action Safety Tray provides a large opening for disposal but automatically swings shut to restrict hand access. The container can not be overfilled and, once locked, is tamper-proof – limiting the risk of injury due to overflowing sharps or when being moved.

## What Daniels' customers are saying:

*“ The facts from switching over to the Daniels Sharpsmart system: in a 12-month period, we reduced our RMW (Regulated Medical Waste) by 58%. That in turn saved our organization nearly \$13,000. We also reduced the non-productive time that my staff had been spending switching over disposable sharps containers, and the number of trips for one of my trash people to pick up RMW containers, by 50%. That allowed us to focus more on the cleaning of the hospital in other areas. ”*

Steve Egbert, CHESP, General Manager, Sodexo, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center.

Results may vary between hospitals.

**RATED BEST SYSTEM  
IN CLINICAL TRIALS**



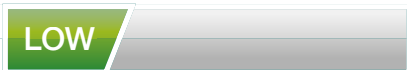
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Environmental harm:



Source: Sharps container usage data supplied by 103 USA hospitals to Daniels Sharpsmart Inc.

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To find out how Daniels can help reduce your environmental impact and protect your staff, please contact your local Daniels sales representative or contact us on:

Toll free: 888 952 5580

[www.danielsinternational.com](http://www.danielsinternational.com)

Daniels supports our planet by using environmentally-friendly papers & inks.

