

SYRINGE DISPOSAL BASICS

If you find a needle, secure it using a sharps container or alternative.

NEVER put loose sharps in the trash, recycling, or flush down the toilet!

FDA RECOMMENDS ALWAYS USING FDA-CLEARED CONTAINERS

If you do not have a sharps container, use an empty household container with these features:



FDA, 2014

SUPPLIES

- Sharps Container
- Gloves
- Tongs
- Hand sanitizer or soap & water

HOW TO HANDLE NEEDLES & avoid injury:

DO NOT

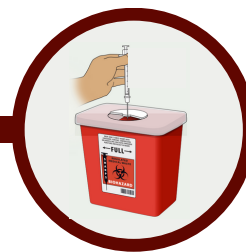
- force needles or sharps into container
- put fingers inside the container
- bend, break, recap or remove the needle
- leave the needle unattended. If you must leave to get disposal supplies, ask another person to keep watch to avoid an accidental stick

INSTEAD

- make sure that you can clearly see and move around the needle
- ensure no children or others are nearby
- use gloves
- bring your sharps container or alternative to the needle, not the other way around

TAKE ACTION

1. Put on gloves
2. Place the container on the ground beside the syringe
3. Pick up the syringe by the middle of the barrel using tongs or gloved hands, whichever provides the most control
4. Place the syringe into the sharps container sharp end first
5. Secure the lid of the sharps container
6. Remove gloves and wash your hands



CDC, 2008
FDA, 2014

WHERE TO DISPOSE OF NEEDLES safely & legally



Indiana Recovery Alliance
118 S. Rogers St. Suite 2,
Bloomington, IN 47404
1-812-56-SAFER
indianarecoveryalliance.org

Indiana Recovery Alliance will accept both FDA approved containers as well as non-FDA approved puncture resistant containers.



Monroe County Solid Waste
Management District
3400 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
1-812-349-2020
<http://www.gogreendistrict.com/>

Monroe County Solid Waste will ONLY take FDA-approved sharps containers.

WHERE TO OBTAIN AN FDA-APPROVED SHARPS CONTAINER



FDA - approved
sharps containers

If you need a sharps container: ask at a pharmacy, medical supply company, healthcare provider, household hazardous waste department or online at:

<http://safeneedledisposal.org/solutions/pharmaceutical-programs/>

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- There has **never** been a reported case of transmission of HIV via a community found syringe accidental needle stick (CFSASN). Journal of Public Health 2013
- The risk of Hepatitis B and C transmission from a CFSANS is "**practically negligible.**" British Medical Journal
- No HIV cases ever from a CFSANS. Practically negligible for other blood borne virus from a CFSANS.
- The **REAL** danger comes when people who use drugs don't have access to sterile syringes. To take one example, the Hepatitis C and HIV outbreak in Scott County, which will affected over 230 people and will cost nearly \$100,00,000 just for HIV treatment. Syringe service programs like ours decrease transmission by over 70%.

- 1) STAY EDUCATED.
- 2) AVOID HYSTERIA.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NEEDLESTICK

- Remain calm
- Wash the needlestick wound with soap and water
- Do not squeeze the wound
- Apply antiseptic and cover with a band-aid
- Seek post-exposure evaluation at a health clinic

CDC, 2003

REFERENCES

Bass, J. (2012). Used needles and syringes along with other drug taking items found discarded close to a public car park in Great Yarmouth [digital photo]. Retrieved from: <http://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/used-needles-horror-in-yarmouth-car-park-1-1716300>.

Osowicki J, Curtis N. Archives of disease in childhood 2014
A pointed question: is a child at risk following a community found needlestick

Riddell A, Kennedy Tong CY British Medical Journal 2015
Sharps injuries in the community - same same but different

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (January 2014). Be Smart With Sharps Pamphlet. Retrieved from: <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/UCM382005.pdf>.

"A last resort is to dispose of the used syringes/sharps in a heavy duty plastic bottle such as a laundry detergent bottle and tape the lid shut. (Do not use coffee cans – they are not puncture resistant) On the outside of the bottle, where it can be easily seen, write "WARNING: SYRINGES - DO NOT RECYCLE" on the outside and then place in the household trash."

https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Indiana_Needle_Disposal_Recommendations.pdf



Indiana Recovery Alliance
118 S Rogers
Bloomington, IN 47404

812.56.SAFER

indianarecoveryalliance.org indianarecoveryalliance@gmail.com



For information about rules and laws in your community, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 800.643.1643. For more information on sharps visit fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal.

KEEP YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY & COMMUNITY SAFE

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR DISPOSING OF NEEDLES & what to do in case of injury



Bass, 2012

