

Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes

Be Smart. Be Careful. Be Aware. Be Safe.

If you're one of the many people in Massachusetts who use syringes to manage your health care at home, Here's what you need to know about the safe use and disposal of needles, syringes and lancets (sharps).

Be Smart. Use a Sharps Container.

A sharps container is a single-use container that is filled with used medical needles and then disposed of safely. These can be purchased at medical supply stores or even ordered through the mail.

DO NOT put sharps containers in with recyclables.

DO NOT dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list at the end of this fact sheet).* If your community does not currently have a disposal site, place them in a rigid, puncture resistant plastic container with a secure cap before placing in the garbage.

DO visit a medical supply store to purchase sharps containers.

DO call the AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline to find out more about personal sharps containers. 1-800-988-5209

DO check out these sharps mail back services. All provide a variety of container sizes and prepaid mailing cartons:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Medasend | 1-800-200-3581 |
| Stericycle | 1-800-355-8773 |
| MWDC | 1-866-810-3000 |

Be Careful.

Protect yourself, your community, your environment, and family and friends.

The proper disposal of needles and syringes is important!

DO put used syringes in sharps container immediately.

DO keep needles away from children and pets.

DO bring a sharps container when traveling.

DO NOT throw sharps in the garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list).

DO NOT flush sharps down the toilet or drop into storm drains.

DO NOT clip, bend or recap needles.

Be Aware.

Needles, syringes and sharps containers may not be thrown in recycling bins. Do not dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list). If you must, place them in a rigid plastic container with a secure cap. These items must be disposed of at a drop off site or through a medical mail back service.

*Effective July 1, 2010, medical waste regulations will not allow the disposal of sharps in household garbage.

Be Safe.

Reduce your risk of blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

DO use a new needle every time you inject.

DO clean the injection site with soapy water, alcohol swabs or rubbing alcohol.

DO find out your HIV/viral hepatitis status. Get tested. If you are not infected you can stay that way. If you are, find out how to take care of yourself and avoid passing HIV/viral hepatitis to others.

DO clean your sharps with bleach IF you must reuse them.

DO NOT inject in the same spot over and over again.

DO NOT share needles, syringes, cookers, cotton or water.

Be Informed.

Resources are just a phone call away. All calls are confidential.

• **AIDS Action Committee Hotline**

1-800-235-2331

Referrals to confidential and anonymous HIV counseling and testing

• **AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline**

1-800-988-5209

• **Diabetes Services in Massachusetts**

617-624-5486

• **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**

617-292-5500

• **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

617-624-6000 www.mass.gov/dph

• **Massachusetts Hepatitis C Program**

1-888-443-HEPC (4372)

www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/masshepc/

• **Massachusetts Substance Abuse Education Information and Helpline**

1-800-327-5050 TTY 617-536-5872

www.helpline-online.com

Information and confidential referrals to treatment and self-help groups

• **Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs)**

You can exchange used syringes for new, sterile ones, be referred to medical help, drug treatment, testing for HIV and dispose of used syringes at any of these sites:

Boston

1-617-771-2138 1-800-383-2437

Cambridge

1-617-661-3040 1-617-680-1063

Northampton

1-413-586-0310 1-800-696-7752

Provincetown

1-508-487-8311 1-866-668-6448

Needle Exchange is free to the public.

Information on sharps drop-off sites is also available at:

www.mass.gov/dph

Sale and Possession of Hypodermic Syringes and Needles in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (M.G.L. chapter 94C, sections 27, 27A and 32L)

- Individuals 18 years and older may legally purchase syringes and needles from a pharmacy without a prescription
- Disposal of syringes must be done safely and responsibly.

State Sanitary Code:

(M.G.L. chapter 111, section 127A)

Improper disposal of infectious or physically dangerous medical or biological waste may result in penalties of up to \$25,000 or two years in a corrections facility.

Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Restrictions apply at some of these locations.

Contact the Needle Disposal Site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|---|
| Amesbury | 11 School Street Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-8133 | Berlin | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 |
| Amherst | Amherst Health Dept. 70 Boltwood Amherst, MA 01002 413-259-3077 | Bolton | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 |
| Arlington | Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple Street Arlington, MA 02476 781-316-3170 | Boston | AHOPE Needle Exchange Program 723 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2318 617-534-3963 617-534-3967 |
| Arlington | Walgreen's Pharmacy 1425 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476 781-646-4171 | Boston | AIDS Action Committee 294 Washington St., 5th floor Boston, MA 02108 617-450-1379 |
| Arlington | Walgreen's Pharmacy 324 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-4110 | Boston | Bioscrip Pharmacy, 21-23 Stanhope St. Boston, MA, 02116 617-375-7969 |
| Arlington | Maida Pharmacy 121 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-7840 | Boston | Boston Public Health Commission 35 Northampton Street Boston, MA 02118 617-534-5395 |
| Arlington | Stop and Shop 905 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476 | Boston | Boston Public Health Commission 398 Neponset Ave (rear entrance) Dorchester, MA 02122 617-534-5395 |
| Athol | 584 Main Street, Suite 1 Athol, MA 01331 978-249-7934 | | |
| Attleboro | South Attleboro Fire Station 1500 West Street South Attleboro, MA 02703 508-223-2222 | Boston | Boston Public Health Commission 435 Warren Street (side entrance) Roxbury, MA 02119 617-534-5395 |
| Auburn | CVS Pharmacy 676 Southbridge St. Auburn, MA 01501 508-832-7703 | Boston | MAPS – Dorchester 1 Stoughton Street Dorchester, MA 02125 617-825-5897 |
| Avon | 150 Main Street Avon, MA 02322 508-588-0414 | | |
| Ayer | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 | Bourne | 24 Perry Avenue Buzzards Bay Bourne, MA 02532 508-759-0630 |
| Barnstable | 3195 Main Street County Barnstable, MA 02630 508-375-6613 | | |

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| Boxboro | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 | Chatham | Chatham Fire & Rescue 135 Depot Road Chatham, MA 02633 508-945-2324 |
| Brewster | Brewster Fire Dept. 1657 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631 508-896-7018 | Cotuit | Cotuit Fire Department 64 High Street Cotuit, MA 02635 508-428-2210 |
| Brockton | COPE Center 81 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301 508-583-3405 | Dennisport | Dennis Health Department 465 Main Street Dennisport, MA 02639 508-760-6158 |
| Brockton | Recycling Depot 301A Oak Hill Way Brockton, MA 02302 508-580-7175 | Dunstable | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-827-4103 |
| Brookline | Brookline DPH 11 Pierce Street Brookline, MA 02445 617-730-2300 | East Bridgewater | Town Hall 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1612 |
| Buzzards Bay | Bourne Fire and Rescue 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 508-759-4112 | Eastham | Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway Eastham, MA 02642 508-255-2324 |
| Cambridge | Cambridge Public Health Department Windsor Street Health Center 119 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-665-3819 | Easthampton | Public Safety Complex 32 Payson Avenue Easthampton, MA 01027 413-529-1430 |
| Cambridge | Cambridge Needle Exchange 17 Sellers Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-559-0219 | Edgartown | P.O. Box 1596 Edgartown, MA 02539 508-627-6120 |
| Canton | 79 Pleasant Street Canton, MA 02021 781-821-5021 | Egremont | Transfer Station 171 Egremont Plain Road South Egremont, MA 01258 413-528-0182 |
| Centerville | C-O-M-M Fire Headquarters 1875 Falmouth Rd. Centerville, MA 02632 508-790-2375 | Fall River | Diabetes Assoc., Inc. 170 Pleasant St. Fall River, MA 02722 508-672-5671 |
| Charlemont | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 | Fall River | Seven Hills Behavioral Health Inc. 310 South Main Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-235-1012 |
| | | Fall River | SSTAR Family Health Care Center 400 Stanley Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-679-5222 x3228 |

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| Falmouth | Falmouth Health Department 59 Town Hall Square Falmouth, MA 02540 508-495-7485 | Holyoke | Cooley-Dickinson Hospital (CEPA Program) 330 Appleton Street Holyoke, MA 01040 413-536-8721 |
| Greenfield | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 | Holyoke | Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01041 413-420-2200 |
| Gloucester | Addison Gilbert Hospital 298 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930 978-281-9771 | Hull | 253 Atlantic Avenue Hull, MA 02045 781-925-2224 |
| Gloucester | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-448-1120 | Hyannis | AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod 428 South Street Hyannis, MA 02601 508-778-1954 |
| Groton | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-448-1120 | Hyannis | P.O. Box 534 Hyannis, MA 02601 |
| Hanover | Hanover Town Hall 550 Hanover Street Hanover, MA 02339 781-826-4611 | Lawrence | The Daybreak Shelter 19 Winter Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-975-4547 |
| Harwich | Harwich Transfer Station 209 Queen Anne Road Harwich, MA 02645 508-430-7558 | Lawrence | The Psychological Center's PEOPLE! Recovery Center 11 Union Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-688-5767 |
| Harvard | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 | Lee** | Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540 |
| Haverhill | CVS Pharmacy River's Edge Plaza 241 Lincoln Ave. Haverhill, MA 01830 978-372-0291 | Lenox** | Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540 |
| Haverhill | Team Coordinating Agency 66 Winter Street Haverhill, MA 01830 978 373-1181 x21 | Littleton | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 |
| Heath | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 | Lunenburg | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 |
| Hingham | Transfer and Recycling Center Hobart Street Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1466 | Lynn | Lynn Health Department 3 City Hall Square, Room 103 Lynn MA 01901 781-586-6819 or 6820 |

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| Malden | Government Center 200 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148 781-397-7053 | Montague | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 |
| Manchester | 10 Central Street Manchester, MA 01944 978-526-7385 | Nashoba Boards of Health | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 ** 978-772-3335 |
| Marblehead | Board of Health Mary Alley Municipal Building 7 Widger Road Marblehead, MA 781-631-0212 | Needham** | 1471 Highland Avenue Room 24 Needham, MA 02192 781-455-7523 |
| Marlborough | Bouvier Pharmacy 515 Lincoln Street Marlborough, MA 01752 508-485-0432 | New Bedford | Home of Hope for Women, Outreach Center 1287 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02746 508-996-0546 |
| Marlborough** | Walker building 255 Main St., Room 103, Marlborough, MA 01752 508-460-3751 | New Salem | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 |
| Marion | Town Hall 2 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738 508-748-3505 | Northampton | Tapestry Health Needle Exchange 16 Centre Street, Suite 401 Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-0310 |
| Mashpee | Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-1420 | North Andover | CVS Pharmacy 115 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845 978-688-9540 |
| Medfield | Town Hall 459 Main Street Medfield, MA 02052 508-359-8505 | Orange | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 |
| Melrose | Melrose City Hall 562 Main Street Melrose, MA 02176 781-979-4130 | Orleans | Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way Orleans, MA 02653 508-255-0050 508-240-3700 Ext-351 |
| Methuen | Municipal Building 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA 01844 978-794-3229 | Peabody | Peabody City Hall 24 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960 978-532-3000 |
| Middleborough | Town Hall 20 Centre Street Middleborough, MA 02346 508-946-2408 | | |

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| Pittsfield | Berkshire Medical Center Neighborhood Health Center 510 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-447-2654 | Rowe | Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438 |
| Pittsfield | 70 Allen St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-499-9411 | Rowley | PO Box 783 Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231 |
| Plymouth | Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. 123-1 Camelot Drive Plymouth, MA 02360 508-583-3005 | Seekonk | Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950 Only once a year |
| Plympton | 5 Palmer Road Plympton, MA 02367 781-585-7000 | Sharon | Fire Department 92 South Main Street Sharon, MA 02067 (781) 784-1510 |
| Provincetown | AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod/Needle Exchange Program 336 Commercial Street #10 Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-8311 | Shirley | 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335 |
| Provincetown | Provincetown Fire Department 25 Shank Painter Road Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-7023 508-487-7020 | Somerville | City Hall Annex 50 Evergreen Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 617-625-6600 x 4310 |
| Quincy | Quincy Health Department 1585 Hancock St. Lower Level Quincy, MA 02169 617-376-1273 | Somerville | Somerville Primary Care 26 Central Street Somerville, MA 02143 617-591-6300 |
| Randolph | Board of Health 1 Turner Lane Randolph, MA 02368 781-961-0924 | South Hadley | Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street South Hadley, MA 01075 413-538-5042 |
| Reading | 16 Lowell St. Reading, MA 01867 781-942-9061 | South Yarmouth | Barnstable County- South Yarmouth 96 Old Main Street South Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2212 |
| Rehoboth | 148R Peck St. Rehoboth, MA 02769 508-252-3099 | Spencer | Spencer Health Department – Memorial Town Hall 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7500 x180 |
| Revere | Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176 | | |

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| Spencer | Spencer Police Department 9 Dewey Street (Rte. 9) Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-6333 | Wareham | Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2nd floor Wareham, MA 02571 508-295-0383 |
| Spencer | Spencer Fire Department 11 Dewey Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7533 | Watertown | Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule |
| Springfield | La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Street Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766 | Wellfleet | Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754 |
| Springfield | New North Citizens Council Drop-In Center 2594 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-746-4885 | West Newbury | 381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119 |
| Springfield | Tapestry Health 365 Bay Street Springfield, MA 01109 413-747-5144 ext.105 | West Springfield | DPW Recycling Yard 430 Westfield Street West Springfield, MA 01089 413-263-3206 |
| Stockbridge** | Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540 | Westford | Public Safety Complex 53 Main Street Westford, MA 01886 978-399-2908 |
| Templeton | Town Office 2 School Street Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-2377 | Westport | 856 Main Road Westport, MA 02790 508-636-1015 |
| Townsend | Board of Health 272 Main Street Townsend, MA 01469 978-597-1713 (curbside pick-up) | Worcester | City of Worcester 25 Meade Street Worcester, MA 01610-2715 508-799-8531 |
| Tri-town Health (Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge)** | Railford Street, Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540 | Woburn | Woburn City Hall 10 Common Street Woburn, MA 01801 781-897-5923 |
| Truro | Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339 | Yarmouth | 1146 Route 28 S. Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2231, Ext. 241 |
| Tyngsborough | 25 Bryants Lane Tyngsborough, MA 01879 978-649-2300 Ext. 118 | | ** Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections or programs under development |