

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

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

as of September 2008

Amesbury	11 School Street Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-8133	Barnstable	3195 Main Street County Barnstable, MA 02630 508-375-6613	Bourne	24 Perry Avenue Buzzards Bay Bourne, MA 02532 508-759-0630
Amherst	Amherst Health Dept. 70 Boltwood, Amherst, MA 01002 413-259-3077	Berlin	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Boxboro	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213
Arlington	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple Street Arlington, MA 02476 781-316-3170	Bolton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Brewster	Brewster Fire Dept. 1657 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631 508-896-7018
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 1425 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476 781-646-4171	Boston	AHOPE Needle Exchange Program 723 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2318 617-534-3963 617-534-3967	Brockton	COPE Center 81 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301 508-583-3405
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 324 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-4110	Boston	AIDS Action Committee 294 Washington St., 5th floor Boston, MA 02108 617-450-1379	Brockton	Recycling Depot 301A Oak Hill Way Brockton, MA 02302 508-580-7175
Arlington	Maida Pharmacy 121 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-7840	Boston	Bioscrip Pharmacy 21-23 Stanhope St Boston, MA, 02116 617-375-7969	Brookline	Brookline DPH 11 Pierce Street Brookline, MA 02445 617-730-2300
Arlington	Stop and Shop 905 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 35 Northampton Street Boston, MA 02118 617-534-5395	Buzzards Bay	Bourne Fire and Rescue 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 508-759-4112
Athol	584 Main Street, Suite 1 Athol, MA 01331 978-249-7934	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 398 Neponset Ave (rear entrance) Dorchester, MA 02122 617-534-5395	Cambridge	Cambridge Health Department Windsor Street Health Center 119 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-665-3819
Attleboro	South Attleboro Fire Station 1500 West Street South Attleboro, MA 02703 508-223-2222			Cambridge	Cambridge Needle Exchange 17 Sellers Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-559-0219
Auburn	CVS Pharmacy 676 Southbridge St. Auburn, MA 01501 508-832-7703	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 435 Warren Street (side entrance) Roxbury, MA 02119 617-534-5395	Centerville	C-O-M-M Fire Headquarters 1875 Falmouth Rd. Centerville, MA 02632 508-790-2375
Avon	150 Main Street Avon, MA 02322 508-588-0414	Boston	MAPS – Dorchester 1 Stoughton Street Dorchester, MA 02125 617-825-5897	Canton	79 Pleasant Street Canton, MA 02021 781-821-5021
Ayer	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213				

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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	Haverhill	Team Coordinating Agency 66 Winter Street Haverhill, MA 01830 978 373-1181 x21
Chatham	Chatham Fire & Rescue 135 Depot Road Chatham, MA 02633 508-945-2324	Fall River	SSTAR Family Health Care Center 400 Stanley Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-679-5222 x3228	Heath	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Cotuit	Cotuit Fire Department 64 High Street Cotuit, MA 02635 508-428-2210	Falmouth	Falmouth Health Department 59 Town Hall Square Falmouth, MA 02540 508-495-7485	Hingham	Transfer and Recycling Center Hobart Street Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1466
Dennisport	Dennis Health Department 465 Main Street Dennisport, MA 02639 508-760-6158	Greenfield	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Holyoke	Cooley-Dickinson Hospital (CEPA Program) 330 Appleton Street Holyoke, MA 01040 413-536-8721
Dunstable	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-827-4103	Gloucester	Addison Gilbert Hospital 298 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930 978-281-9771	Holyoke	Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01041 413-420-2200
East Bridgewater	Town Hall 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1612	Gloucester	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-448-1120	Hull	253 Atlantic Avenue Hull, MA 02045 781-925-2224
Eastham	Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway Eastham, MA 02642 508-255-2324	Groton	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
Easthampton	Public Safety Complex 32 Payson Avenue Easthampton, MA 01027 413-529-1430	Hanover	Hanover Town Hall 550 Hanover Street Hanover, MA 02339 781-826-4611	Hyannis	P.O. Box 534 Hyannis, MA 02601
Edgartown	P.O. Box 1596 Edgartown, MA 02539 508-627-6120	Harwich	Harwich Transfer Station 209 Queen Anne Road Harwich, MA 02645 508-430-7558	Lawrence	The Daybreak Shelter 19 Winter Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-975-4547
Egremont	Transfer Station 171 Egremont Plain Road South Egremont, MA 01258 413-528-0182	Harvard	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Lawrence	The Psychological Center's PEOPLE! Recovery Center 11 Union Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-688-5767
Fall River	Diabetes Assoc., Inc. 170 Pleasant St. Fall River, MA 02722 508-672-5671	Haverhill	CVS Pharmacy River's Edge Plaza 241 Lincoln Ave. Haverhill, MA 01830 978-372-0291	Lee**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540

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Lenox**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Medfield	Town Hall 459 Main Street Medfield, MA 02052 508-359-8505	North Andover	CVS Pharmacy 115 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845 978-688-9540
Littleton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Melrose	Melrose City Hall 562 Main Street Melrose, MA 02176 781-979-4130	Orange	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Lunenburg	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Methuen	Municipal Building 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA 01844 978-794-3229	Orleans	Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way Orleans, MA 02653 508-255-0050 508-240-3700 Ext-351
Lynn	Lynn Health Department 3 City Hall Square, Room 103 Lynn MA 01901 781-586-6819 or 6820	Middleborough	Town Hall 20 Centre Street Middleborough, MA 02346 508-946-2408	Peabody	Peabody City Hall 24 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960 978-532-3000
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	Pittsfield	Berkshire Medical Center Neighborhood Health Center 510 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-447-2654
Manchester	10 Central Street Manchester, MA 01944 978-526-7385	Nashoba Boards of Health**	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-4947	Pittsfield	70 Allen St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-499-9411
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	Plymouth	Heath Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. 123-1 Camelot Drive Plymouth, MA 02360 508-583-3005
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	Plympton	5 Palmer Road Plympton, MA 02367 781-585-7000
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	Provincetown	AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod/Needle Exchange Program 336 Commercial Street #10 Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-8311
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	Provincetown	Provincetown Fire Department 25 Shank Painter Road Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-7023 508-487-7020
Mashpee	Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-1420				

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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	Templeton	Town Office 2 School Street Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-2377
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	Townsend	Board of Health 272 Main Street Townsend, MA 01469 978-597-1713 (curbside pick-up)
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	Tri-town Health (Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge)**	Railford Street, Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
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	Truro	Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339
Revere	Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176	Spencer	Spencer Police Department 9 Dewey Street (Rte. 9) Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-6333	Tyngsborough	25 Bryants Lane Tyngsborough, MA 01879 978-649-2300 ext. 118
Rowe	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Spencer	Spencer Fire Department 11 Dewey Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7533	Wareham	Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2nd floor Wareham, MA 02571 508-295-0383
Rowley	PO Box 783 Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231	Springfield	La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Street Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766	Watertown	Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule
Seekonk	Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950 Only once a year	Springfield	New North Citizens Council Drop-In Center 2594 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-746-4885	Wellfleet	Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754
Sharon	Fire Department 92 South Main Street Sharon, MA 02067 (781) 784-1510	Springfield	Tapestry Health 365 Bay Street Springfield, MA 01109 413-747-5144 ext.105	West Newbury	381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119
Shirley	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Stockbridge**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	West Springfield	DPW Recycling Yard 430 Westfield Street West Springfield, MA 01089 413-263-3206
Somerville	City Hall Annex 50 Evergreen Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 617-625-6600 x 4310			Westford	Public Safety Complex 53 Main Street Westford, MA 01886 978-399-2908

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Westport	856 Main Road Westport, MA 02790 508-636-1015
Woburn	Woburn City Hall 10 Common Street Woburn, MA 01801 781-897-5923
Worcester	City of Worcester 25 Meade Street Worcester, MA 01610-2715 508-799-8531
Yarmouth	1146 Route 28 S. Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2231, Ext. 241

** Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections, or programs under development