

Safe Needle & Syringe Disposal

Many Boston residents use syringes to manage a variety of health care conditions at home such as diabetes, allergies, multiple sclerosis, and others. The safe disposal of needles, syringes, and lancets (sharps) is necessary to protect residents, sanitation/municipal workers, and the environment.

What should I do with my used syringes?

Used syringes and other sharps should always be placed in a sharps container and disposed of safely—either at a drop-off site or in a mail-back program. IV drug users can also enroll in a Needle Exchange Program for needle exchange and other harm reduction services. Do not clip, bend, or recap needles and always keep sharps and containers away from children and pets. For more information on personal sharps containers, call the AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline at 1-800-988-5209.

Can I put my used syringes in the trash?

No. Residents should not throw used syringes in the garbage or recycling bins, flush them down the toilet, or drop them into storm drains. Sharps that have been improperly disposed of pose a health and safety risk to the public and sanitation workers. These items must be disposed of at a drop-off site or through a medical mail-back service.

What should I do if I find a needle on a public way?

If you find a needle on a sidewalk or other public way, please call the Mayor's HelpLine at 617-635-4500. Provide the location of the needle(s) with as much detail as possible so that the responding agency can locate the waste.

Drop-Off Sites in Boston

Several communities have established sharps drop-off sites. Boston's drop-off sites are located at:

- **Boston Public Health Commission**
35 Northampton St, Boston, MA 02118
- **Neponset Community Health Center**
398 Neponset Avenue (rear entrance),
Dorchester, MA 02122.
- **Roxbury Comprehensive Health Center**
435 Warren Street (side entrance)
Roxbury, MA 02119

For information about **Boston's drop-off sites**, call the BPHC Needle Exchange Program at 1-800-383-2437.

For information about drop-off sites **outside of Boston**, visit: www.mass.gov/dph

Mail-Back Programs

You can also dispose of used sharps through a pre-paid mail-back program. Some companies offer this service:

- Medasend: 1-800-200-3581
- Stericycle: 1-800-355-8773



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
1010 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, MA 02118
(617) 534-5395
On-line at www.bphc.org