

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 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**

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.

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, 2012, 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.

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.

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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, TTY/TDD 617-624-6001
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

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Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

as of December 2010

Restrictions apply at some of these locations.

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

Avon	Avon Town Hall 150 Main Street Avon, MA 02322 508-588-0414	Boston	Boston Health Care for the Homeless (in lieu of BMC) 780 Albany St. Boston, MA 02118 857-654-1636
Ayer	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335	Boston	SPAN, Inc 105 Chauncy St, 6th Floor Boston, MA 02111 (617) 423-0750 x 109
Barnstable	Dept. of Health and Environment 3195 Main Street County Barnstable, MA 02630 508-375-6613	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 35 Northampton Street Boston, MA 02118 617-534-5395
Berlin	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 398 Neponset Ave Dorchester, MA 02122 617-534-5395
Bolton	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 435 Warren Street (side entrance) Roxbury, MA 02119 617-534-5395
Boston	AHOPE Needle Exchange Program 723 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2318 617-534-3963 617-534-3967	Boston	MAPS – Dorchester 1 Stoughton Street Dorchester, MA 02125 617-825-5897
Boston	AIDS Action Committee 75 Amory Street Boston, MA 02130 617-450-1379	Bourne	Bourne Fire Station 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay Bourne, MA 02532 508-759-0630
Boston	Bioscrip Pharmacy, 21-23 Stanhope St. Boston, MA, 02116 617-375-7969	Boxboro	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335

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Brewster	Brewster Fire Dept. 1657 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631 508-896-7018	Canton	Canton Board of Health 79 Pleasant Street Canton, MA 02021 781-821-5021
Brockton	Brockton Neighborhood Community Health Center 63 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301 508-894-3507	Centerville	C-O-M-M Fire Headquarters 1875 Falmouth Rd. Centerville, MA 02632 508-790-2375
Brockton	COPE Center 81 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301 508-583-3405	Charlemont	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Brockton	Recycling Depot 301A Oak Hill Way Brockton, MA 02302 508-580-7175	Chelsea	Centro Latino 267 Broadway Chelsea, MA 02150 617-884-3238
Brookline	Brookline DPH 11 Pierce Street Brookline, MA 02445 617-730-2300	Chatham	Chatham Fire & Rescue 135 Depot Road Chatham, MA 02633 508-945-2324
Buzzards Bay	Bourne Fire and Rescue 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 508-759-4412	Cotuit	Cotuit Fire Department 64 High Street Cotuit, MA 02635 508-428-2210
Cambridge	Cambridge Public Health Department Windsor Street Health Ctr. 119 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-665-3819	Dennisport	Dennis Health Department 465 Main Street (Rte 28) Dennisport, MA 02639 508-760-6158
Cambridge	Cambridge Needle Exchange 17 Sellers Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-559-0219	Dunstable	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
		East Bridgewater	Town Hall Bridgewater 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1612

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Eastham	Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway Eastham, MA 02642 508-255-2324	Greenfield	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Easthampton	Public Safety Complex 32 Payson Avenue Easthampton, MA 01027 413-529-1430	Gloucester	Addison Gilbert Hospital 298 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930 978-281-9771
Egremont	Transfer Station 171 Plain Road South Egremont, MA 01258 413-528-0182	Groton	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Fall River	Diabetes Assoc., Inc. 170 Pleasant St. Fall River, MA 02722 508-672-5671	Hanover	Hanover Town Hall 32 Center Street Hanover, MA 02339 781-826-4611
Fall River	Seven Hills Behavioral Health Inc. 310 South Main Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-235-1012	Harwich	Harwich Transfer Station 209 Queen Anne Road Harwich, MA 02645 508-430-7558
Falmouth	Falmouth Health Department 59 Town Hall Square Falmouth, MA 02540 508-495-7485	Harvard	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Fitchburg	Gardner VNA Community Services Center 35 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 978-665-9078	Haverhill	Team Coordinating Agency 66 Winter Street Haverhill, MA 01830 978 373-1181 x21
Framingham	JRI Health 354 Waverly Street 1st floor rear Framingham, MA 01702 508-935-2960	Heath	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438

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Hingham	Transfer and Recycling Center Hobart Street Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1466	Lee	(Tri-town - Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge) Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
Holyoke	Cooley-Dickinson Hospital (CEPA Program) 330 Appleton Street Holyoke, MA 01040 413-536-8721	Littleton	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Holyoke	Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01041 413-420-2200	Lowell	Lowell House 555 Merrimack St. Lowell, MA, 978-459-8656
Hull	Town Hall 253 Atlantic Avenue Hull, MA 02045 781-925-2224	Medford	Medford City Hall 85 George P. Hasset Drive Medford, MA 02155 781-393-2560
Hyannis	AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod 428 South Street Hyannis, MA 02601 508-778-1954	Lunenburg	Nashoba Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Lawrence	The Daybreak Shelter 19 Winter Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-975-4547	Lynn	Health & Recovery Cab 280 Union Street Lynn, MA 01901 781-592-4477
Lawrence	Greater Lawrence Family Health 98-100 Water Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-689-6687	Lynn	Lynn Health Department 3 City Hall Square, Rm 103 Lynn MA 01901 781-586-6819 or 6820
Lawrence	The Psychological Center's PEOPLE Recovery Center 11 Union Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-688-5767	Malden	Government Center 200 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148 781-397-7053
		Manchester	Board of Health 10 Central Street Manchester, MA 01944 978-526-7385

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Marblehead	Board of Health Mary Alley Municipal Bldg. 7 Widger Road Marblehead, MA 781-631-0212	Montague	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Marlborough	Bouvier Pharmacy 515 Lincoln Street Marlborough, MA 01752 508-485-0432	Nashoba	Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Marlborough**	Walker building 255 Main St., Room 103 Marlborough, MA 01752 508-460-3751	Needham**	Dept. of Public Works 1471 Highland Avenue Room 24 Needham, MA 02192 781-455-7523
Marion	Town Hall 2 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738 508-748-3533	New Bedford	Greater New Bedford Community Health Center 874 Purchase St, New Bedford, MA 02740 508.992.6553
Martha's Vineyard	Martha's Vineyard Hospital One Hospital Road Oak Bluffs, MA 02568 508-693-0410	New Bedford	Home of Hope for Women, Outreach Center 1287 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02746 508-996-0546
Mashpee	Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-1420	New Bedford	Seven Hills Behavioral Health 589 South First Street New Bedford, MA 02744 508-999-3126
Melrose	Melrose City Hall 562 Main Street Melrose, MA 02176 781-979-4130	New Salem	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Methuen	Municipal Building 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA 01844 978-794-3229	Northampton	Tapestry Health Needle Exchange 16 Centre Street, Suite 401 Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-0310
Middleborough	Town Hall 20 Centre Street Middleborough, MA 02346 508-946-2408		

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Northfield	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 508-487-7023 508-487-7020
North Andover	CVS Pharmacy 115 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845 978-688-9540	Quincy	Manet Community Health Center 110 West Squantum St Quincy, MA 02171 617-376-2040
Orange	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Quincy	Quincy Health Department 440 East Squantum Quincy, MA 02169 617-376-1273
Orleans	Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way Orleans, MA 02653 508-255-0050 508-240-3700 Ext-351	Randolph	Board of Health 1 Turner Lane Randolph, MA 02368 781-961-0924
Peabody	Peabody City Hall 24 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960 978-532-3000	Reading	Health Department 16 Lowell St. Reading, MA 01867 781-942-9061
Pittsfield	Berkshire Medical Center Neighborhood Health Center 510 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-447-2654	Rehoboth	Fire Station 334 Anawan Street Rehoboth, MA 02769 508-252-3725
Plymouth	Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. 123-1 Camelot Drive Plymouth, MA 02360 508-583-3005	Revere	Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176
		Rowe	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438

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Rowley	Board of Health 39 Central Street Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231	Spencer	Spencer Rescue Squad 11 Dewey Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7533
Seekonk	Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950 (Once a year)	Springfield	La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Str., Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766
Sharon	Fire Department 92 South Main Street Sharon, MA 02067 781-784-1510	Springfield	New North Citizens Council Drop-In Center 2594 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-746-4885
Shirley	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335	Springfield	Tapestry Health 365 Bay Street Springfield, MA 01109 413-747-5144 ext.105
Somerville	Safety Building / Police Dept. 220 Washington Street Somerville, MA 02143 617-625-1600	Stockbridge	(Tri-town - Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge) Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
South Hadley	Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street South Hadley, MA 01075 413-538-5042	Tri-town	(Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge) Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
South Yarmouth	Barnstable County- South Yarmouth 96 Old Main Street South Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2212	Truro	Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339
Spencer	Spencer Health Department Memorial Town Hall 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7500 x180	Tyngsboro	Board of Health 25 Bryants Lane Tyngsboro, MA 01879 978-649-7907
Spencer	Spencer Police Dept. West Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-6333		

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Wareham	Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2nd Wareham, MA. 02571 508-295-0383	Worcester	AIDS Project Worcester 85 Green Street Worcester, MA 01604 508-755-3773
Watertown	Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule	Worcester	Great Brook Valley Health Center 19 Tacoma Street Worcester, MA 01605 508-852-1805
Weymouth	Manet Community Health Center 110 West Squantum St Quincy, MA 02171 617-376-2040	Worcester	City of Worcester 25 Meade Street Worcester, MA 01610 508-799-8531
Wellfleet	Wellfleet Fire Department 10 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754	Worcester	Family Health Center 26 Queen Street Worcester, MA 01603 508-860-7750
West Newbury	381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119	Worcester	Worcester Senior Center 128 Providence Street Worcester, MA 01604 508-799-1232
West Springfield	Town Hall 26 Central Street West Springfield, MA 01089 413-263-3206	Woburn	Woburn City Hall 10 Common Street Woburn, MA 01801 781-897-5923
Westford	Public Safety Complex 23 Depot Street Westford, MA 01886 978-399-2908	** Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections or programs under development.	
Westport	Transfer Station 856 Main Road Westport, MA 02790 508-636-1015		