

# 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](http://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?

Of the 274 pediatric patients in the 'largest reported cohort monitored for HIV, HBV and HCV seroconversion after a CA-NSI' (community acquired needle stick injury), there were no detected cases of infection with the blood-borne viruses. Papenburg, 2008

'A review of research literature on non-healthcare, occupational sharps injuries found an extremely small number of confirmed cases of either HIV or HCV being transmitted by needlestick injuries outside healthcare settings. UC Berkeley, 2015

No cases of transmission of HIV via a community found syringe accidental needle stick (CFSASN). Journal of Public Health

The risk of Hepatitis B and C transmission from a CFSANS is "practically negligible." British Medical Journal

**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%.

## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NEEDLESTICK

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

- 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

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 2003. Exposure to Blood: What Health Personnel Need to Know. Retrieved from: [https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/bbp/exp\\_to\\_blood.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/bbp/exp_to_blood.pdf).
- Papenburg, J., Blais, D., Moore, D., & Al-Hosni, M., Laferriere, C., Tapiero, B., & Quach C. (2008). Pediatric Injuries from Needles Discarded in the Community: Epidemiology and Risk of Seroconversion. Pediatrics, 122:2, e478-e492
- University of California, Berkeley. (2015). Report for Commission on Health and Safety and Workers Compensation: Infection Risk from 'Sharps' Injuries for Non-Healthcare Workers. Neuhauser, F., Shor, G., & Jacks, R.
- 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>.
- Osowski 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

**"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](https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Indiana_Needle_Disposal_Recommendations.pdf)



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<http://indianarecoveryalliance.org/found-a-syringe/>



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](http://fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal).

# FIND A SYRINGE?

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

