

Needle & Sharps Disposal

For the Household

What are sharps?

- “Having the potential to puncture or lacerate”
- Including (but not limited to) needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, infusion sets, connection needles/sets
- May be used to manage medical conditions of people & pets

Improper Disposal of Sharps

- Can threaten public safety - sharps contaminated with Hepatitis, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), and/or other serious or fatal diseases can accidentally stick people
- Can clog sewers and lift stations
- Can end up at recycling centers
- Can puncture solid waste containers, putting workers along collection routes and at landfills at risk of injury and/or disease



Where can I dispose of sharps safely?

Plymouth Fire Station
114 Sandwich Street



Source: <https://swa.org/289/Medical-Waste>

How do I dispose of sharps?

- Used sharps should be immediately placed in a sharps container (now available for pickup at both Sandwich Street Fire Station & Plymouth Public Health Department)
- If unable to get approved container, a heavy duty plastic household container (such as a laundry detergent container or milk jug) may be used.
- Bring full sharps container to the Plymouth Fire Station.

Importance of Proper Sharps Disposal

- **Decrease risk of injury to yourself and others**
- Decrease risk of infection from:
 - Hepatitis B
 - Hepatitis C
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Never Flush Needles/Sharps down the Toilet



Town of Plymouth
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Plymouth Public Health Department
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-747-1620 ext. 10118

Sources: <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/> & <https://swa.org/DocumentCenter/View/420/PRC-Sharp-Box-and-PDF&Itemid=Consumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps&cm=30275617.htm>

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Medical Waste

Where do needles and sharps come from?

- 9 million syringe users will administer at least 3 billion injections outside a traditional health care facility per year
- 2/3 of these injectors are people with diabetes or patients administering home health treatment for other conditions, such as epipens being used for allergies

How can I dispose of needles?

- Place into a sharps container
- If no sharps container, throw sharps into a hard plastic container (like a laundry detergent container) UNTIL 3/4 FULL, write SHARPS - DO NOT RECYCLE, and secure with a lid (tape shut if necessary)
- When container is 3/4 full, bring to a sharps drop-off station
- NEVER DISPOSE IN TRASH OR TOILET



Source: <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/>



Source: <https://doctorbulldog.wordpress.com/2006/12/09/no-sense-of-toilet-humor/>



Source: <https://www.org/289/MedicalWaste>



*****Septic Systems are not equipped or designed to hold medical waste. Traces of drugs might remain in treated wastewater.*****

If you live in the Plymouth Area, you can dispose of sharps containers anonymously at the Plymouth Fire Station, located at 114 Sandwich Street.

You may pick up sharps containers at the Plymouth Public Health Department or the Sandwich Street Fire Station at no cost.



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Source: http://www.jchdonline.org/jdownloads/Recycling/drug_needle_disposal_fact_sheet.pdf