

How to Safely Dispose of Used Needles

Equipment: Gloves (latex, vinyl, garden), tongs, plastic container or sharps container



Universal Precautions are the foundation of safe syringe/needle retrieval and disposal. When disposal is done correctly there is no risk of transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C or any blood borne illnesses.

If you find a needle:

<p>Step 1:</p>	<p>Scan the environment for any possible dangers (e.g. traffic, tripping hazards). Put on gloves (if possible). Gloves do not prevent injury, but form a clean barrier between the hands and the needle.</p>	
<p>Step 2:</p>	<p>Bring a puncture-resistant, sealable container to the site of the needle. Sharps containers work best but are not necessary. A plastic pop bottle (various sizes), a coffee can or laundry jug will also work.</p>	
<p>Step 3:</p>	<p>Place the container on as flat of a surface as possible beside the needle. Be mindful of your footing. Never hold the container while retrieving a needle at the same time.</p> <p>Picture shows: Drug use equipment (clockwise): sharps container, 3cc syringe, 1cc syringe, cooker/spoon, individual water packs, tie/tourniquet</p> <p>*Syringes are to be disposed of in the sharps container. Any other injection equipment (cookers/spoons, ties, water) can be safely disposed of either in the trash or in the container.</p>	
<p>Step 4:</p>	<p>It is best to use kitchen or BBQ tongs to retrieve the needle. Gloves do not prevent injury, but form a clean barrier between the hands and the needle.</p> <p>*Tongs can be disposed of later in the trash. If using tongs for syringe recovery on a regular basis, store in a secure place away from accidental exposure to food (e.g. garages, locked cupboards where cleaning supplies are stored).</p>	
<p>Step 5:</p>	<p>Pick up the needle with tongs by the middle of the barrel (the plastic tube) with sharp end facing down. If there are multiple needles, pick them up one at a time.</p>	
<p>Step 6:</p>	<p>Place the needle into the container with the sharp end first. NEVER attempt to recap the needle or break the tip off.</p>	
<p>Step 7:</p>	<p>Securely place the lid on the container. If using a Sharps container (like shown), one push on the oval lid will secure the lid but allow reopening. A second push will close the lid entirely and it cannot be reopened. It is recommended that Sharps containers are filled to ¾ full before disposing of them.</p>	

Step 8:	Remove gloves and wash your hands with warm water and soap.	
Step 9:	<p>Containers can be dropped off at any of the following Needle bins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 186 King Street - Regional HIV/AIDS Connection • 130 King Street - Covent Garden Market, Market Lane • 241 Simcoe Street - London Middlesex Housing Corporation • 580 Dundas Street - London Middlesex Housing Corporation • 459 York Street - Mission Services, The Gathering Place • Bathurst Street at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope • Bathurst Street at Clarence • Municipal Parking Lot - King and Adelaide (near Tolpuddle Housing Co-op) • Municipal Parking Lot - Queens and Adelaide • Municipal Parking Lot - Queens and Lyle • Carfrae Park (at Ridout Street) • Campbell Park - 380 Dundas Street • Harris Park • Victoria Park • Forks of the Thames • London Police Service (underground sallyport) • Piccadilly Park • Watson Park • McMahan Park • Queens Park 	 

What to do if you get stuck by a needle:

Remain calm. Allow the wound to bleed freely. Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Apply a sterile, waterproof bandage. Seek **immediate** medical attention from an Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Room.

St. Joseph's Urgent Care Centre

Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm
 Sat/Sun/Holidays, 8am-4pm
 268 Grosvenor St
 519-646-6100 ext. 67020

Emergency Rooms

University Hospital
 339 Windermere Rd
 519-663-3197

Victoria Hospital
 800 Commissioners Rd. E
 519-685-8141