

# Safe Sharps Disposal

Learn how to safely dispose of used sharps including needles, lancets and syringes.

EXPANDED SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM

**E S A P**

## How to Safely Dispose of Household Sharps



Millions of people use needles, syringes, and lancets at home to care for their health. These needles, syringes, and lancets are called sharps.

Used household sharps must be stored safely and disposed of properly to protect people from diseases. Used sharps may contain blood with HIV or hepatitis C. Someone who accidentally gets cut by a used sharp could get infected.

## Safe Disposal of Used Sharps



- Protects family members, pets, and anyone who handles trash and recyclables from illness and injury.
- Prevents sharps from being reused or shared.
- Prevents the spread of viral and bacterial infections like HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis.
- Protects the environment.

If you do not have a sharps container, use a plastic bottle that cannot be broken or punctured, such as a bleach bottle or laundry detergent bottle. Close the screw-on cap tightly. Put tape over the cap and write “Contains Sharps” on the bottle.

Put sharps into your container as soon as you use them. Keep the container closed and away from children and pets. Bring an appropriate container with you when you travel.

## What Not To Do:

Don't put your used sharps container in the trash.

Don't flush sharps down the toilet or drop them into a sewer drain.

Don't clip, bend, or put the cap back on used sharps.

Don't put sharps or sharps containers in with the recyclables.



Don't put used sharps in soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, or containers that can be broken or punctured. Coffee cans are not safe because the plastic lids come off easily and may leak.

## Where to Obtain Sharps Containers

At your local drugstore.

At Syringe Exchange Programs.

Visit: [health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/](https://health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/)

At NYS Safe Sharps Collection sites.

Visit: [health.ny.gov/sharps-collection](https://health.ny.gov/sharps-collection)

The American Diabetes Association can provide you with additional information on how to obtain them. Please call: (800) 342-2383.



## Where to Dispose of Syringes

All hospitals and nursing homes in NYS are required by law to accept household generated sharps. Call first to find out hours, days, and a location where you can bring them.

Through the Alternative Sharps Collection Program, pharmacies, health clinics, community-based organizations, public transportation facilities, airports, housing complexes, police and sheriff's stations, town halls, colleges, private, city and federal hospitals, shelter clinics, a dock, parks, a fire department and other venues have become sites for safe sharps collection. In some instances, the sharps collection kiosks are being placed next to a drug collection kiosk.

In Erie, Onondaga and Suffolk counties, some programs have partnered with police departments and other entities to become a sharps collection kiosk site.

To learn more, visit the NYS Safe Sharps Collection Program at:  
[health.ny.gov/sharps-collection](http://health.ny.gov/sharps-collection).

Syringe Exchange Programs also accept them.



## You Can Also Contact:

NYS Department of Health HIV/AIDS Information Line at:  
1-800-541-2437.

Growing Up Healthy Hotline: 1-800-522-5006 (TTY: 1-800-655-1789)

New York City Department of Health and Mental Health, NYC WELL at:  
1 (888) 692-9355, or text “WELL” to 65173 or go to:  
[nycwell.cityofnewyork.us](http://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us)



# POINT NY

**The Point NY** is a New York State-specific, mobile friendly locator tool for harm reduction material and services. You can learn where to find sterile syringes with no prescription, as well as sharps disposal sites to properly dispose them. In addition, you can find pharmacies to get naloxone, the drug that reverses opioid overdose; and free HCV testing.

Visit: [thepointny.org](http://thepointny.org)

