Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes


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 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.

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

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, 2010, 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.

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 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

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.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health — September 2008
# Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites

## In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

as of September 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address 1</th>
<th>Address 2</th>
<th>Phone 1</th>
<th>Phone 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amesbury</td>
<td>11 School Street, Amesbury, MA 01913</td>
<td>3195 Main Street, County Barnstable, MA 02630</td>
<td>978-388-8133</td>
<td>508-375-6613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnstable</td>
<td>413-259-3077</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Amherst, MA 01002</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>70 Boltwood, Amherst, MA 01002</td>
<td>70 Boltwood, Amherst, MA 01002</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Amherst, MA 01002</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA 02476</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>978-316-3170</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>Walgreen's Pharmacy, 1425 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476</td>
<td>723 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118-2318</td>
<td>781-646-4171</td>
<td>617-534-3963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>Walgreen's Pharmacy, 324 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02474</td>
<td>294 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108</td>
<td>781-643-4110</td>
<td>617-450-1379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>Van Dorn Street, Amherst, MA 01002</td>
<td>1500 West Street, South Attleboro, MA 02703</td>
<td>781-643-7840</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attleboro</td>
<td>South Attleboro Fire Station, 1500 West Street, South Attleboro, MA 02703</td>
<td>398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122</td>
<td>508-223-2222</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>CVS Pharmacy, 676 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA 01501</td>
<td>Boston Public Health Commission, 35 Northampton Street, Boston, MA 02118</td>
<td>508-832-7703</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon</td>
<td>150 Main Street, Avon, MA 02322</td>
<td>Boston Public Health Commission, 435 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA 02119</td>
<td>508-588-0414</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayer</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>1 Stoughton Street, Dorchester, MA 02125</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
<td>617-825-5897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>AHOPE Needle Exchange Program, 723 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118-2318</td>
<td>AIDS Action Committee, 294 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108</td>
<td>781-646-4171</td>
<td>617-534-3963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>11 Pierce Street, Brookline, MA 02445</td>
<td>Bioscrip Pharmacy, 21-23 Stanhope St, Boston, MA 02116</td>
<td>978-249-7934</td>
<td>617-375-7969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>301A Oak Hill Way, Brockton, MA 02302</td>
<td>294 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108</td>
<td>508-580-7175</td>
<td>617-375-7969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>81 Pleasant St., Brockton, MA 02301</td>
<td>294 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108</td>
<td>508-580-7175</td>
<td>617-375-7969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>11 Pierce Street, Brookline, MA 02445</td>
<td>294 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108</td>
<td>508-580-7175</td>
<td>617-375-7969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buzzards Bay</td>
<td>130 Main Street, Bourne, MA 02532</td>
<td>35 Northampton Street, Boston, MA 02118</td>
<td>508-759-4112</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Cambridge Health Department, 119 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA 02139</td>
<td>398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122</td>
<td>508-759-4112</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>338 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA 02139</td>
<td>398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122</td>
<td>508-759-4112</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centerville</td>
<td>C-O-O-M Fire Headquarters, 1875 Falmouth Rd, Centerville, MA 02632</td>
<td>398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122</td>
<td>508-759-4112</td>
<td>617-534-5395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.
Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites  
In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
as of September 2008

**Charlemont**  
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District  
50 Miles Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-772-2438

Fall River  
Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Inc.  
310 South Main Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
508-235-1012

**Chatham**  
Chatham Fire & Rescue  
135 Depot Road  
Chatham, MA 02633  
508-945-2324

Heath  
SSTAR Family Health Care Center  
400 Stanley Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
508-679-5222 x3228

**Cotuit**  
Cotuit Fire Department  
64 High Street  
Cotuit, MA 02635  
508-428-2210

Falmouth  
Falmouth Health Department  
59 Town Hall Square  
Falmouth, MA 02540  
508-495-7485

**Dennisport**  
Dennis Health Department  
465 Main Street  
Dennisport, MA 02639  
508-760-6158

Greenfield  
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District  
50 Miles Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-772-2438

**Dunstable**  
30 Central Avenue  
Ayer, MA 01432  
978-827-4103

Gloucester  
Addison Gilbert Hospital  
298 Washington Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
978-281-9771

**East Bridgewater**  
175 Central Street  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
508-376-1612

Gloucester  
30 Central Avenue  
Ayer, MA 01432  
978-448-1120

**Eastham**  
Eastham Fire Department  
2520 State Highway  
Eastham, MA 02642  
508-255-2324

Groton  
30 Central Avenue  
Ayer, MA 01432  
978-448-1120

**Easthampton**  
Public Safety Complex  
32 Payson Avenue  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
413-529-1430

Hanover  
Hanover Town Hall  
550 Hanover Street  
Hanover, MA 02339  
781-826-4611

**Edgartown**  
P.O. Box 1596  
Edgartown, MA 02539  
508-627-6120

Harwich  
Harwich Transfer Station  
209 Queen Anne Road  
Harwich, MA 02645  
508-430-7558

**Egremont**  
Transfer Station  
171 Egremont Plain Road  
South Egremont, MA 01258  
413-528-0182

Harvard  
30 Central Avenue  
Ayer, MA 01432  
978-772-8213

**Fall River**  
Diabetes Assoc., Inc.  
170 Pleasant St.  
Fall River, MA 02722  
508-672-5671

Haverhill  
CVS Pharmacy  
River's Edge Plaza  
241 Lincoln Ave.  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
978-372-0291

**Haverhill**  
Team Coordinating Agency  
66 Winter Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
978-373-1181 x21

**Hingham**  
Transfer and Recycling Center  
Hobart Street  
Hingham, MA 02043  
781-741-1466

**Holyoke**  
Cooley-Dickinson Hospital (CEPA Program)  
330 Appleton Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
413-536-8721

**Hull**  
253 Atlantic Avenue  
Hull, MA 02045  
781-925-2224

**Hyannis**  
AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod  
428 South Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
508-778-1954

**Lawrence**  
The Daybreak Shelter  
19 Winter Street  
Lawrence, MA 01841  
978-975-4547

**Lee**  
The Psychological Center's PEOPLE! Recovery Center  
11 Union Street  
Lawrence, MA 01841  
978-688-5767

**Lee**  
Railroad Street  
Lee, MA 01238  
413-243-5540

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.
### Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites

**In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**as of September 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lenox</strong></td>
<td>Railroad Street, Lee, MA 01238</td>
<td>413-243-5540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Littleton</strong></td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunenburg</strong></td>
<td>30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lynn</strong></td>
<td>Lynn Health Department, 3 City Hall Square, Room 103, Lynn MA 01901</td>
<td>781-586-6819 or 6820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Malden</strong></td>
<td>Government Center, 200 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148</td>
<td>781-397-7053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manchester</strong></td>
<td>10 Central Street, Manchester, MA 01944</td>
<td>978-526-7385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marblehead</strong></td>
<td>Board of Health, Mary Alley Municipal Building, 7 Widger Road, Marblehead, MA</td>
<td>781-631-0212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marlborough</strong></td>
<td>Bouvier Pharmacy, 515 Lincoln Street, Marlborough, MA 01752</td>
<td>508-485-0432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marlborough</strong></td>
<td>Walker building, 255 Main St., Room 103, Marlborough, MA 01752</td>
<td>508-460-3751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marion</strong></td>
<td>Town Hall, 2 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738</td>
<td>508-748-3505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mashpee</strong></td>
<td>Mashpee Department of Public Works, 350 Meetinghouse Road, Mashpee, MA 02649</td>
<td>508-539-1420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medfield</strong></td>
<td>Town Hall, 459 Main Street, Medfield, MA 02052</td>
<td>508-359-8505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methuen</strong></td>
<td>Municipal Building, 90 Hampshire Street, Methuen, MA 01844</td>
<td>978-794-3229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middleborough</strong></td>
<td>Town Hall, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, MA 02346</td>
<td>508-946-2408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Montague</strong></td>
<td>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield, MA 01301</td>
<td>413-772-2438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nashoba</strong></td>
<td>Boards of Health, 30 Central Avenue, Ayer, MA 01432</td>
<td>978-772-4947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needham</strong></td>
<td>1471 Highland Avenue, Room 24, Needham, MA 02192</td>
<td>781-455-7523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Bedford</strong></td>
<td>Home of Hope for Women, Outreach Center, 1287 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02746</td>
<td>508-996-0546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Salem</strong></td>
<td>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield, MA 01301</td>
<td>413-772-2438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Andover</strong></td>
<td>CVS Pharmacy, 115 Main Street, North Andover, MA 01845</td>
<td>978-688-9540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orange</strong></td>
<td>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield, MA 01301</td>
<td>413-772-2438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orleans</strong></td>
<td>Orleans Fire Department, 58 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans, MA 02653</td>
<td>508-255-0050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peabody</strong></td>
<td>Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960</td>
<td>978-532-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pittsfield</strong></td>
<td>Berkshire Medical Center, Neighborhood Health Center, 510 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201</td>
<td>413-447-2654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plympton</strong></td>
<td>Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc., 123-1 Camelot Drive, Plymouth, MA 02360</td>
<td>508-583-3005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provincetown</strong></td>
<td>AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod/Needle Exchange Program, 336 Commercial Street #10, Provincetown, MA 02657</td>
<td>508-487-8311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quincy</td>
<td>Quincy Health Department 1585 Hancock St. Lower Level Quincy, MA 02169 617-376-1273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>Board of Health 1 Turner Lane Randolph, MA 02368 781-961-0924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>16 Lowell St. Reading, MA 01867 781-942-9061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehoboth</td>
<td>148R Peck St. Rehoboth, MA 02769 508-252-3099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revere</td>
<td>Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowe</td>
<td>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowley</td>
<td>PO Box 783 Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seekonk</td>
<td>Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon</td>
<td>Fire Department 92 South Main Street Sharon, MA 02067 (781) 784-1510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley</td>
<td>30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>City Hall Annex 50 Evergreen Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 617-625-6600 x 4310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Hadley</td>
<td>Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street South Hadley, MA 01075 413-538-5042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yarmouth</td>
<td>Barnstable County-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer</td>
<td>Spencer Health Department Memorial Town Hall 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7500 x180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Street Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>New North Citizens Council Drop-In Center 2594 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-746-4885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>Tapestry Health 365 Bay Street Springfield, MA 01109 413-747-5144 ext.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockbridge**</td>
<td>Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templeton</td>
<td>Town Office 2 School Street Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-2377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsend</td>
<td>Board of Health 272 Main Street Townsend, MA 01649 978-597-1713 (curbside pick-up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-town Health</td>
<td>Railroad Street, (Lee, Lenox, Lee, MA 01238 Stockbridge)** 413-243-5540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truro</td>
<td>Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyngsborough</td>
<td>25 Bryants Lane Tyngsborough, MA 01879 978-649-2300 ext. 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wareham</td>
<td>Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2nd floor Wareham, MA 02571 508-295-0383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown</td>
<td>Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellfleet</td>
<td>Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Newbury</td>
<td>381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>DPW Recycling Yard 430 Westfield Street West Springfield, MA 01089 413-283-3206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westford</td>
<td>Public Safety Complex 53 Main Street Westford, MA 01886 978-399-2908</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.
Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites
In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
as of September 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>856 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790</td>
<td>508-636-1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woburn</td>
<td>Woburn City Hall, 10 Common Street, Woburn, MA 01801</td>
<td>781-897-5923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>1146 Route 28, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664</td>
<td>508-398-2231, Ext. 241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections, or programs under development

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.