

# 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, local solid waste department or online at:

<http://safeneedledisposal.org/solutions/pharmaceutical-programs/>

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Though there is great public concern about disease resulting from CA-NSIs (community acquired needle stick injuries) 'no HIV infections from such injuries have been documented.'

CDC, 2016

'Prophylactic treatment after needlesticks, a measure of the risk perceived by healthcare providers and patients, is also infrequent. Only 1.2% of these [non-occupational] injuries received prophylactic treatment.'

UC Berkeley, 2015

Of the 274 pediatric patients in the 'largest reported cohort monitored for HIV, HBV and HCV seroconversion after a CA-NSI', there were no detected cases of infection with the blood-borne viruses.

Papenburg, 2008

'When several conditional probabilities are small, the overall probability of the whole chain of events occurring is very small, sometimes diminishingly so. This is the case when considering the risk of infection posed by discarded needles in non-healthcare settings.'

UC Berkeley, 2015

By comparison, persons who inject drugs have an increased risk for acquiring these infectious diseases. 'In the United States, approximately 9-12% of new HIV cases, 50% of new hepatitis C cases, and 2% of hepatitis A cases are associated with illicit injection of drugs.'

CDC, 2012

## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NEEDLESTICK

- Remain calm
- Wash the needlestick wound with soap & 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

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Monroe County Health Department  
119 W. 7th St.,  
Bloomington, IN 47403  
812.349.2543

<https://www.co.monroe.in.us/departments/?structureid=12>



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](https://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal).

# STAYING SMART WITH SHARPS

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

