








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, Hep C or any blood borne illnesses

If you find a needle:

Step 1:	Scan the environment for any possible dangers (traffic, tripping hazards etc.). Put on gloves (if possible). Gloves do not prevent injury, but form a clean barrier between the hands and the needle.	
Step 2:	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.	
Step 3:	Place the container on as flat of a surface as possible beside the needle. Be mindful of your footing. Never hold the container and retrieve a needle at the same time. Picture shown: Drug use equipment (clockwise): sharps container, 3cc syringe, 1cc syringe, cooker/spoon, individual water packs, tie/tourniquet *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.	
Step 4:	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. *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 (garages, locked cupboards where cleaning supplies are stored etc.)	
Step 5:	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.	
Step 6:	Place the needle in the container sharp end first. NEVER attempt to recap the needle or break the tip off.	
Step 7:	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.	

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"> • 446 York St. Regional HIV AIDS Connection • 580 Dundas St – LMHC • Forks of the Thames • 130 King St – Covent Garden Market, Market Lane • 241 Simcoe St – LMHC • Victoria Park • Bathurst St. at Clarence • Bathurst St. at the Salvation Army Centre of Hope • Municipal Parking Lot – Queens and Adelaide • Municipal Parking Lot – Queens and Lyle • Campbell Park • Municipal Parking Lot – King and Adelaide (near Tolpuddle Housing Co-op) • Piccadilly Park • Harris Park • McMahan Park • Queens Park • Carfrae Park West (entrance to park) • Carfrae Bridge (north side) • CNRA Park • Under York Street Overpass • Ivey Park • Parkette at Richmond Street and Horton Street East 	

Sharps Disposal Video City of London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tgop8QsDqoo>

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