



Found a syringe?

Here's how to dispose safely of used needles.

1) Pick them up carefully. Wear gloves. Some people like to use pliers or tongs, but use them only if you can get a reliable grip. You don't want the needle to slip out of your tool's grasp.



Never break the needle off or try to recap it. This may cause injury or spread disease or germs. If you are stuck with a needle, clean the site with soap and water or an antiseptic such as rubbing alcohol, and call your doctor or a hospital.

2) Put needles in a puncture-proof, lidded container. **Medical sharps containers are best.** Plastic bottles are next best, but use something thicker than a milk jug – like a jug for detergent or kitty litter. (Once the needles are in, don't take them out.)



3) Take the container to an approved drop-off site. This might be your local landfill or clinic or fire station; call and ask ahead of time. Here are some drop-off sites and their policies:

Anchorage, Eagle River

You can put needles in the trash for pickup, or take to the landfill, as long as they are in a sturdy container with a secure lid. Solid Waste Services asks that you tape the lid closed.

Four A's, 1057 W. Fireweed Lane Ste. 102, 263-2050.
Drop-off hours: M-Th, 1 - 4:30 p.m.; F, 3 - 6 p.m.

Providence Hospital Lab, main campus, 3200 Providence Dr., Anchorage. 562-2211. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mat-Su

Central Landfill, 1201 N. 49th State St., Palmer.
M-F, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.; S, Su, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Give your container to the gatehouse attendant. If that's not possible, it's OK to throw them away in a puncture-proof, lidded container.

Fairbanks

You can put needles in the trash for pickup as long as they are in a sturdy plastic container with a secure lid or in a sharps container. Call 459-6770 if you need help obtaining a container.

Juneau

Downtown fire station, 820 Glacier Ave. & Glacier fire station, 1700 Crest Ave. M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Town parks: There are disposal containers in the Cope and Twin Lakes restrooms (locked at night). Cope also has an outdoor receptacle available 24/7, it is located at the park entrance on the back of the park kiosk sign.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 5436 Commercial Dr., Lemon Creek. 586-5254. F, S, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Accepts needles in a puncture-proof container with a secure lid.

Soldotna, Kenai

Central Peninsula Hospital Emergency Room, 250 Hospital Place. Will take needles in a sturdy plastic container, but prefer the use of medical sharps containers; they will give you a free one. If you can, get one before doing roadside clean-up. If you do bring in a non-medical container, please mark it "Sharps" and duct-tape the lid shut. 714-4404; open 24/7.

Nikiski

The fire stations at 44800 Kenai Spur Hwy. 776-6401 and 51770 Kenai Spur Hwy. 776-6402 can take sharps in a pinch, but they're not set up for regular drop-offs. Open M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Homer

South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., 235-8101, accepts needles the second Wednesday of the month 1-3 p.m. at its loading dock, in sharps containers or hard plastic containers. Please write "SHARPS/Do Not Recycle" on non-medical containers with a marker, and duct-tape the lids shut. Important: hand the container to the attendant; do not leave sharps unattended at the loading dock.

If you do medical care at home, often you can take used medical supplies or prescriptions back to the prescribing office or your pharmacy or hospital; ask about it. If the care is for a pet, ask your vet.

See also the FDA's [Safely Using Sharps at Home, at Work and on Travel](#)

