



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 flip 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 pick up, or take to the landfill, as long as they are in a sturdy container with a secure lid (Solid Waste Services asks that you duct-tape the lid on).

Four A's, [1057 W. Fireweed Lane Ste. 102, Anchorage](#). 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F

Providence Laboratory Services has four drop off locations in Anchorage and Eagle River. For details: 907-212-3631

Main medical center lab, [3200 Providence Dr., Anchorage](#) 7 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Patient service centers, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F except [3425 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage](#) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Providence Health Park, [3841 Piper St. Ste. 211, Anchorage](#); Eagle River center, [11701 Snowmobile Ln., Eagle River](#).

Mat-Su:

Central Landfill, [1201 N. 49th State St., Palmer](#). 7 a.m.-6 p.m. M-F; 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sat, Sun. 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 pick up as long as they are in a sturdy plastic container with a secure lid or in a [sharps container](#).

Call 907-459-6770 if you need help obtaining a container.

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](#)

Juneau:

Fire stations, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F. Downtown station, [820 Glacier Ave.](#); Glacier station, [1700 Crest Ave.](#)

Four A's, [174 S. Franklin St. Ste. 207](#). 1:30-4 p.m. M, T, Th; 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. F

Town parks: There are containers in the Cope and Twin Lakes restrooms (locked at night); Cope also has an outdoor receptacle that's available at night.

