



Board of Health

TOWN HALL • 19 WASHINGTON ST. • SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770
508-651-7852 • FAX 508-651-7868

DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL SHARPS USED AT HOME

The use of medical sharps at home, including needles, syringes, and lancets, is common as many health conditions are treated outside of medical offices and hospitals. As a result, careful consideration is needed for the disposal of the medical waste in order to prevent injury and infection.

Effective July 1, 2012, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has placed a ban on the disposal of needles, syringes, and lancets in household trash [105 CMR 480.00: *Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste (State Sanitary Code Chapter VIII)*]. Since sharps may no longer be taken to the Recycle/Transfer Station in household trash, the following options may be used to safely dispose of medical waste. The Board of Health does not endorse or recommend any products or services, but is making this information available so residents can make informed decisions.

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health provides statewide regional collection sites, such as municipal government offices, hospitals, medical offices, pharmacies, and other locations. This list can be accessed online at the following website:
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf>
Restrictions apply at some of these locations, so contact the site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules.
- Another option for medical waste disposal is for residents to purchase postage-paid mail-back kits. These kits include a sharps container, mailing carton with prepaid postage, and a tracking form to verify that the sharps are properly disposed. When the container is full it can then be placed in the mailing carton and mailed directly to the company's designated facility for incineration.

A number of companies, including but not limited to those listed below, have mail-back programs for sharps:

www.sharpsinc.com

www.sharpsdisposal.com

www.biomedicalwastesolutions.com

www.sharpsmd.net

If additional assistance is needed, please contact the Sherborn Board of Health at 508-651-7852.

SHERBORN BOARD OF HEALTH – 6/14/12
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