

Safe disposal options for household needles and sharps



February 2016

What is a sharp?

A sharp is any device used to penetrate the skin for healthcare purposes. Sharps include hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, *used* epi-pens, lancets and syringes.



Disposal options

Use one of the following options to dispose of used household needles and sharps. Never place containers with used needles or sharps in a recycling bin.

Check with your healthcare provider

Some clinics and hospitals have collection programs for household needles and sharps. Check with them first. Do not bring used needles and sharps to your clinic or hospital if they are unable to accept them.

Destroy at home

Destroy your sharps at home by purchasing a destruction unit or contact Safeguard Medical Technologies, 877-797-4277.

Mail-back programs

Use a mail-in program for needles and sharps

- Stericycle, Inc., 651-644-1480 or 1-800-355-8773
- Sharps, Inc., 1-800-772-5657
- GRP Medical Services, 1-800-207-0976



Hennepin County's Drop-off Facilities accepts sharps from households only*

Hennepin County believes it's important to manage and dispose of sharps (needles, lancets, and syringes) safely to prevent injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks.

Sharps from households are accepted at the county's drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington. You must follow these steps to use the drop-off facilities.

1. Prepare your needles and sharps

- Store in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a screw-on lid. Examples include empty laundry detergent bottles with screw-on lids. You can also purchase a sharps disposable container from a pharmacy.
- Label the empty container, "Do not recycle: Household sharps"
- Put used needles into the container point-first.
Note: Do not put *unused* medicines contained in sharps (epi-pens) in your container.**
- Only fill your container half full of needles and sharps.
- Keep the lid screwed on the container to prevent spills.



2. Remember to bring

Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

3. Dispose of needles and sharps at the county's drop-off facilities

Staff will guide you to the needles and sharps drop-off area. Your sharps must be in a proper container, and you will be responsible for placing your container into the drop-off bin.

Note: Sharps will not be accepted if not in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a screw-on lid. Staff will not handle needles and sharps.



*Hennepin County does not accept needles and sharps from businesses – which includes healthcare facilities, pharmacies, pharmaceutical representatives, doctors' offices and veterinary clinics.

**Hennepin County does not accept medicines or *unused* medicines contained in sharps (epi-pens) at the county drop-off facilities.

Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities

Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Full and self service areas

8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445



Bloomington

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center

Full service only

1400 W 96th St.
Bloomington, MN 55431



Facility hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays

Open to residents of Hennepin, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties

What to bring:

- Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill
- Payment, if applicable – cash, check or credit card

For the most current facility information go to www.hennepin.us/dropoffs or call 612-348-3777.

Attention If you want help translating this information, call 612-348-3777

Atencion Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-348-3777

Ogow Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo laceg la' aan wac 612-348-3777

Ceeb toom Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-348-3777

TDD/TTY 612-596-6985
34-509-10-16

Hennepin County Public Works

Environment and Energy
www.hennepin.us/dropoffs
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612-348-3777

