

Needle Disposal and Exchange

Place needles in a special sharps container
or an **FDA-cleared household container**

<https://safeneedledisposal.org/sharps-management/fda-cleared-sharps-containers/>

SAFE DISPOSAL OPTIONS



1. Drop-off Collection Sites

Take the filled container to an approved site:

- Health Departments
- Community Organizations
- Police and Fire Stations
- Medical Waste Facilities
- Physician's Offices
- Hospitals
- Health Clinics
- Pharmacies

Locate sites near you <https://safeneedledisposal.org/state-search/>

2. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites

- Special container (similar to recycling container)
- Place outside/call for pickup or meet pick-up schedule of trained waste handling company

Locate sites near you <https://search.earth911.com/>



3. Mail Back Programs

- Patient mails sharps to a collection site
- Use special mailing containers approved by the U.S. Postal Service
- Protects patient privacy

Search for a list of a state guidelines and sharps collection providers <https://safeneedledisposal.org/>



4. Syringe Exchange Programs

- Patients exchange used needles for new ones
- Often operated by community organizations that handle proper disposal

Locate sites near you

- <https://harmreduction.org/connect-locally/>
- <https://nasen.org/map/>
- <https://michigan.gov/ssp>

5. Needle Destruction Devices (Home Use)

- Device clips, melts, or burns the needle, making it safe for household waste
- Syringe or plunger can then be disposed in household trash



**For more information, visit the
Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal website**

<http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal (specific state guidelines and program providers)

- (800) 643-1643
- www.safeneedledisposal.org

North American Syringe Exchange Network

- (253) 272-4857
- www.nasen.org
- EPA.gov [Protect Yourself, Protect Others: Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal](#)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- [Syringe Service Program \(SSP\)](#) <https://michigan.gov/ssp>

References

- 1 Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal. EPA.
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/med-govt_0.pdf.
- 2 Land, Waste, and Cleanup Topics. EPA.
<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/land-waste-and-cleanup-topics>. Published February 4, 2019.
- 3 Protect Yourself, Protect Others: Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal. EPA
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/med-home_0.pdf.
- 4 Safe Needle Disposal. <https://safeneedledisposal.org/>.