

The Centers for Disease Control's national goal is that:

no syringes are discarded in the trash, or in public locations, such as parks, buildings or in the streets.

IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, WE EMBRACE THE GOAL TO:

- Protect children and pets
- Protect solid waste disposal workers
- Prevent re-use or sharing of sharps that can transmit infectious diseases
- Protect our environment

For more information contact:

- Your local health department or health agent
- Your town's public works department, or
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Program

www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aods/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf

**Town by Town
Contact Information**

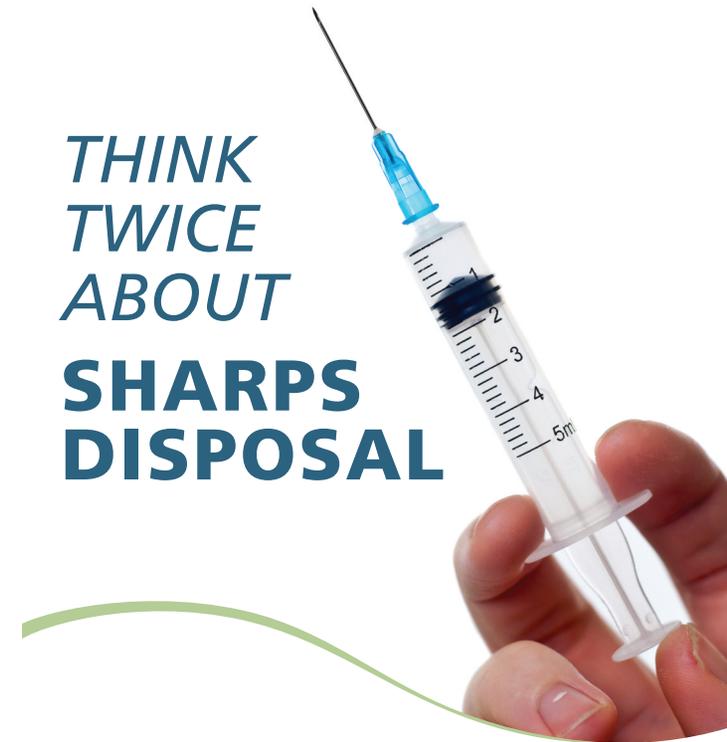
Agawam	413-786-0400
Blandford	413-454-5147
Chicopee	413-594-1665
Granville	413-357-8585
Hampden	413-566-2151 Ext 102
Holyoke	413-322-5595
Longmeadow	413-565-4140
Ludlow	413-583-5600 Ext 1272 or 1271
Monson	413-267-4107
Montgomery	413-454-5454/ 413-862-3386
Palmer	413-283-2606
Russell	413-862-6207
Southwick	413-569-1212
Springfield	413-787-6740
Tolland	413-258-4068
West Springfield	413-263-3206
Westfield	413-572-6210
Wilbraham	413-454-5155

Hampden County Health Coalition
<http://www.pvpc.org/hchc/index.html>

Baystate Medical Center
baystatehealth.org

#123786

**THINK
TWICE
ABOUT
SHARPS
DISPOSAL**



**A Guide to Safe Disposal
of Household Syringes
and Lancets**

*A collaboration of the
Hampden County Health Coalition
and Baystate Medical Center*



**Baystate
Medical Center**

*Serving residents of Hampden County,
Massachusetts planning for natural
and man-made disasters.*

baystatehealth.org

Millions of people use syringes and lancets to manage their health care at home. These syringes and lancets are called **household sharps**.

Examples of People Who Use Sharps

- Diabetes patients
- Rheumatoid arthritis patients
- Hemophiliacs
- Pet owners
- Farmers

Anyone who uses sharps must properly store and discard them after use.

Do not dispose of sharps in containers that can be punctured or broken, such as:

- Soda and coffee cans
- Glass jars
- Milk or juice cartons
- Plastic soda or juice bottles

Container Care

- Immediately after use, put used syringes and lancets in a sharps container.
- Keep sharps away from children and pets.
- Keep container closed between uses.
- Bring a container with you when you travel.
- Store container in a safe place.



Household Sharps Disposal Options

- Community-based programs – many towns have programs where sharps disposal containers may be obtained and returned. In some communities there may be a nominal fee for this service.
- Individuals may obtain sharps disposal containers from a retail outlet and use one of the existing collection sites for disposal, or,
- Use one of the mail back programs available from medical supply companies, pharmacies or your town.

What You Should Not Do

- Do not flush sharps down the toilet.
- Do not drop sharps into storm drains.
- Do not clip, bend or recap sharps.
- Do not put sharps in trash
(As of July 1, 2012, the disposal of sharps in household garbage is no longer permitted. This has been done to protect the environment and the health and safety of trash collectors and recycling facility workers.)
- Do not place sharps in recyclables. They are not recyclable.