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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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

**Baystate Medical Center**
baystatehealth.org
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 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.