

Disposal of Needles, Syringes and Lancets (“Sharps”) Used at Home

Effective July 1, 2012, a statewide ban prohibits the disposal of sharps in household trash. Please do not bring your sharps to the transfer station. The Carlisle Board of Health, Council on Aging and Department of Public Works are working together to provide Carlisle residents with a safe alternative for sharps disposal.

The annual spring hazardous waste collection will accept sharps. Store them at home in a safe location. One suggestion is to drop the sharps into a narrow neck bottle such as a bleach jug or other heavy-duty plastic container. The container should be able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-proof lid, without the sharps being able to come out. It should be upright and stable during use, leak-resistant and properly labeled sharps disposal boxes are available at local pharmacies.

The Carlisle Board of Health has a limited supply of gallon sharps disposal containers for sale in the office for \$4.00.

If you prefer to dispose of your sharps sooner, you may use one of the following options.

- The MA DPH provides a list of statewide collection sites, found online. [<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf>] Contact the site ahead to learn of any restrictions.
- You may purchase a postage-paid mail-back kit to mail your sharps to a medical waste handler for disposal. Mail-back kits may be ordered at local pharmacies, or purchased by phone or online. Typically the kit contains a sharps container, a mailing carton with prepaid postage, and a tracking form to verify proper disposal. The full container is placed in the mailing carton and mailed directly to the company’s facility for incineration.
- Be prepared for travel. Carry a portable sharps disposal container for travel.
- Keep all needles and other sharps and containers out of reach of children and pets.

This statewide ban is a step towards reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Workers in the solid waste industry are exposed to injuries from sharps in the household trash. Other disposal alternatives are being explored, and this information will be updated if information changes.