

Service: Syringe/Needle Disposal

Description:

1. **Syringes/Used Needles Found Dumped in the Community** – There does not exist a single service for picking up used needles found in the community. There are cleanup programs that may be able to assist but if an individual/group is willing to pick them up themselves they should take safety precautions.
 - > Get a puncture-proof container, such as a coffee can or plastic container with lid.
 - > Wear gloves and use pliers to carefully place item in the container.
 - > Tape container shut and handle with care.
 - > Do NOT put in the garbage can.
 - > Take to the nearest 24-hour syringe drop box - <https://multco.us/multnomah-county/syringe-drop-box-locations>
 - > FREE sharps containers (1 quart size that holds about 50) available through the County Health Department at <https://multco.us/syringe-disposal> - online request form at the bottom of the page
 - > The County Needle Exchange Program will also accept them, call 503-988-3030 to make an appointment.
 - > There are sometimes Neighborhood Collection Events - information can be found by calling Metro at 503-234-3000 for event info.

If somebody finds a lot of littered syringes, they can reach out to **Metro Regional Illegal Dumping Patrol, 503-234-3000**, simon.collins@oregonmetro.gov or the Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program, 503-823-4000, reportpdx@portlandoregon.gov, if associated with a campsite for assistance.

As a last resort, The **County Needle Exchange Program** is also willing to assist with pickup when possible but do not have funding to do so. People may contact **Program Coordinator** Erin Browne through the **503-988-3030** line to see if they can assist. They can also call this number to arrange to bring syringes to them at the SE Clinic at 3653 SE 34th Ave. **PLEASE do not give our staff direct lines or emails but rather ask them to call the program at 503-988-3030.**

Syringe Disposal Box Requests - The intergovernmental **Discarded Syringe Reduction Workgroup** is working to improve the situation with disposed used syringes in the community and is working to site additional collection boxes in the community and is collecting feedback from community members to guide its work. Let the group know

about your experience with discarded syringes and how you would like agencies to expand disposal options. submit feedback/requests using online form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeQCZAI0EcDqIX54GmSPNqnU1vgdyJ7KCspXRDiBaVCj7KXQ/viewform?usp=sf_link **Staff Contact:** Liz Smith-Currie, **503-988-4435**, liz.smith-currie@multco.us in County Chair's Office. If a Syringe Drop Box is full or damaged contact County Facilities at 503-988-3779 for maintenance.

2. **Personal Medical Sharps Disposal** – Oregon law requires proper hazardous waste disposal. DO NOT throw used syringes in the garbage.

> Metro Regional Government Recycling Facilities will receive these and charge \$5. You receive a free sharps container each time you return one.

METRO CENTRAL STATION: 503-223-6788
6161 NW 61st Ave, Portland (Open Daily 8am - 5pm)
Household hazardous waste 9am-4pm Mon-Sat

METRO SOUTH STATION: 503-657-2872
2001 Washington St, Oregon City
(Summer Open Daily 7am - 7pm) (Winter Daily 7am - 6pm)
Household hazardous waste 9am-4pm Mon-Sat

> **The Recycling Hotline, 503-234-3000**, can help community member locate nearest disposal site for their medical sharps.

> Many Pharmacies (Fred Meyer, Bi-Mart for example) take containers of sharps for a fee
Fred Meyer & Bi-Mart.

Follow Up:

Reach out to Adam Renon