

## Mail in Programs and Events

### North American Syringe Exchange

**Network** safely exchanges used needles for new needles.

253-272-4857

[www.nasen.org](http://www.nasen.org)

**Stericycle Mailback Program** in provides expert sharps disposal services and containers to thousands of hospitals, private practices, and home users of sharps.

800-355-8773

[www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com)

### At-Home Needle Destruction Devices

There are several products manufactured that allow the self-user to safely destroy used needles at home. These devices sever, burn or melt the needle, rendering it safe for disposal.

[www.safeneededisposal.org](http://www.safeneededisposal.org)

### Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

sponsors unused medicine collection events. Check on their website for dates.

[www.KNIB.org](http://www.KNIB.org)

### CDC—Selecting, Evaluating & Using Sharps

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/97-111/>

**Sharps Compliance** is a provider of sharps disposal by mail solutions for sharps generated in the home as well as medical professionals such as doctors, dentists and veterinarians. Systems include a sharps collection container for safe containment and a pre-paid return shipping box for environmentally responsible treatment of the sharps waste.

800-772-5657

[www.sharpsinc.com](http://www.sharpsinc.com)



(630) 545-9710

[www.scarcecoed.org](http://www.scarcecoed.org)

## References & Other Relevant Information

To learn more about regulations concerning medical waste disposal, consult EPA's Medical Waste Web site at:

### IL Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>

### Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

(800) 643-1643 or online at

[www.safeneededisposal.org](http://www.safeneededisposal.org)

### Assistance with Sharps Containers

For those individuals who need assistance with the cost of approved sharps containers for disposal. Please inquire at the fire station.



Glenside Fire Protection District

1608 Bloomingdale Road

Glendale Heights, IL 60139

(630) 668-5323

[www.glensidefire.org](http://www.glensidefire.org)

[info@glensidefire.org](mailto:info@glensidefire.org)

## GLENSIDE Fire Protection District



*Proudly serving Glendale Heights  
and Glen Ellyn Countryside*

## Sharps Disposal Program

The Glenside Fire Protection District Sharps Disposal Program is made possible by funds received through grant dollars over the years from Republic Services, the IL EPA, the Glenside Fire District and was established originally with a partnership grant through SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education).

Our goal is provide a disposal option for self-injectors and thereby preventing the needles / sharps from entering the household waste stream.

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The Glenside Fire Protection District is dedicated to preserving the quality of life and property of our residents and businesses by providing diverse, high quality services that answer the needs of our community. We will participate actively in the community through education and prevention, serving as a role model that is identifiable, accountable and one that lets the community know

*“We’re there and we care”*

## SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Program purpose: The purpose of the sharps disposal program is to provide education and assistance to residents in the disposal of needles or "Sharps" in efforts to support the waste, recycling and green initiatives in DuPage County.

Sharps are objects or devices that have been used in patient care, medical, research or industrial laboratories. Sharps can be glass, metal or plastic with rigid corners, sharp; edges or protruding pieces that can slice, scrape or pierce the skin. For the purpose of this program, we are referring to needles specifically.

Used needles should NOT be thrown in the garbage. Be sure you get rid of your used needles the safe way to avoid exposing other people to harm. Improper disposal of home-generated medical waste poses a potential health hazard to many, including family members, sanitation workers, people in the community, hotel house-keeping, staff and school personnel. Although rare, diseases as serious as Hepatitis B & C and AIDS can result from accidental needle sticks.

The improper disposal of contaminated sharps is a serious safety concern for garbage collectors and landfill workers. We are offering these disposal tips as guidance, but please check with your doctor, clinic or hospital to see about a needle or "sharps" disposal that they may offer as well at their office.



## SUPERVISED COLLECTION PROGRAM

The supervised container drop box collection site program is designed to allow residents of the Glenside Fire District and others to drop off their sharps container during business hours of the Glenside Fire District.

Sharps users can take their filled sharps container to the Glenside Fire Protection District for drop-off. This program will assist to ensure that self-injectors have the option to use approved Sharps containers to collect sharps, but prevent the sharps from entering into the household waste stream. The program was designed to provide an environmentally conscious disposal for sharps.

### Please follow these instructions for Safe Disposal of Needles:

1. Use a puncture-proof sharps container which can be purchased at pharmacies. Alternatively hard plastic household containers, which should be unbreakable and puncture resistant, may be used. We recommend a laundry detergent bottle. No milk jugs, coffee cans or 2 liter bottles.
2. Sharps should be placed in the sharps container immediately after use.
3. Put sharps in point-first.
4. Store sharps in closed container with the cap screwed on until disposal.
5. Containers more than half-full should be disposed of. Do not cram them full.
6. Clearly label container **"SHARPS, DO NOT RECYCLE"** with a bold marker.

When the container is half full, tape lid on securely with duct tape and bring to the fire station.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ◆ Sharps must be brought to the fire station in approved containers
- ◆ Sharps containers will only be accepted during business hours of the fire district Monday through Friday, 8AM—4:30 PM
- ◆ There is no fee for residents of the Glenside Fire District
- ◆ There is no longer a fee for non-residents

When your sharps container is full, simply secure the seal, and bring your bin to the fire station. When you arrive, enter through the main door off of Fullerton Ave. Inform the desk that you need to dispose of a sharps container. You may be asked to place your container into a medical red waste bag which will then be placed in the collection bin for disposal.

## OTHER SAFE DISPOSAL TIPS

- Do not try to bend or recap needles with their covers as this can lead to an injury.
- You may also purchase an inexpensive needle clipping device from pharmacies or online which will safely clip, catch, and contain the needles. Then toss the syringe into the waste. These containers can store up to a two-year supply of needles.
- Do not use scissors to clip off needles, as the flying needle could hurt someone or become lost.
- When traveling, bring your used syringes home. Pack them in a heavy duty holder, such as a hard plastic pencil box, for transport.
- For more information on how to dispose of a full sharps container, contact your doctor's office, pharmacy, or hospital to see if they accept sharps containers. Also ask a diabetes educator about local sharps disposal containers.
- Keep containers away from children and animals.