

City and Borough of Juneau



Safe Needle Disposal Recommendations

If you don't feel comfortable picking up and safely disposing of a sharp found outside, email sharps@juneau.org and CBJ will retrieve it.

Sharps Collection Locations:

Downtown Fire Station
820 Glacier Ave
&
Glacier Fire Station
1700CrestAve

Mon-Fri
8a-4:30p
OR

HHW Facility
5600 Tongard ct
LemonCreek
Fri-Sat 8a-4:30p

THE DANGER

- Needles injure people, spread germs, and spread diseases like HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tetanus, and syphilis

DON'T

- Throw needles in the garbage, flush them down the toilet, or put them in recycling containers
- Try to cap, bend, or clip the needles

DO

- Learn how to safely dispose of needles and other sharps
- Place all sharps in a puncture-resistant container like the one-quart sharps containers being issued, a one-liter soda bottle, one gallon orange juice container, plastic laundry detergent container, or a coffee can with a sealing lid.
- Clearly label the container as medical waste and seal it tightly prior to disposal.
- Drop-off filled containers at approved collections sites (see list on the left)

Make a Difference

- Get on social media "Juneau – Stop Heroin, Start Talking" to find out more and add your support for ongoing efforts

Guidelines for the disposal of needle/syringe into a sharps container

Equipment: Thin disposable latex, vinyl or nitrile gloves, sharps container	
Procedure	Precautions
Step 1 Put on disposable latex or vinyl gloves (if available). Gloves will not prevent the wearer from being injured but will form a clean barrier between the hands and the syringe.	<u>Do not</u> attempt to recap the needle- this is how most accidental needle-stick injuries happen. The cap is usually bright orange and can be disposed of separately. <u>Do not</u> break, bend or otherwise try to render the syringe useless
Step 2 Bring your rigid-walled, puncture-resistant, sealable, sharps container to the syringe	Take the sharps container to the syringe, <u>do not</u> walk with the needle/syringe
Step 3 Place the container on the ground or flat surface besides the syringe.	<u>Do not</u> hold the sharps container or ask another person to hold it as you are disposing of the syringe
Step 4 Pick up the syringe by the middle of the barrel	The safest method of picking up a syringe is by hand. Staff can also choose to wear thin, disposable gloves that do not hinder dexterity. <u>Do not</u> crack the plastic barrel of the syringe or flick the syringe.
Note <u>Do not</u> use a dustpan & brush to “sweep up” the syringe as the sweeping movement can cause the syringe to flick into the air and cause further risk.	Plastic tweezers are not recommended as they may also cause the needle/syringe to flick (commonly bright colored and found in “sharps disposal kits” sold at pharmacies).
Step 5 Place the syringe in the container sharp end first	Keep the sharp end of the needle facing away from you at all times.
Step 6 Securely place the lid on the container and ensure it is sealed. Hold the container by the top when carrying.	Place the sealed container into your sharps disposal bin or contact your local fire department regarding safe ways to dispose of your sharps container.
Step 7 Remove gloves carefully so any contaminated fluid on the glove does not come in contact with your hand. Wash your hands with running water and soap.	Other items that have come in contact with blood (i.e. gloves) should be disposed of in the same container as the used syringe or placed into double plastic bags and then into the rubbish.

What to do if a needle stick injury occurs

- Stay calm
- Encourage the wound to bleed (gently squeeze).
- As soon as possible wash the area with running water and soap (if available).
- Apply an antiseptic & Band-Aid.
- As soon as possible contact your supervisor.
- It is important to be medically assessed as soon as possible. Visit your local doctor or hospital emergency department promptly; they will manage blood testing, counseling and possible hepatitis B and tetanus vaccination and/or medication.
- CBJ and BRH staff can access the Employee Assistant Program (EAP) for free confidential counselling or seek the assistance of another counselling service.
- Dispose of the needle/syringe safely.

Keep a copy of this page with each sharps container.

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) is providing information and supporting materials for safe handling of sharps as a public service. Any person handling sharps accepts full responsibility for any injury or illness potentially caused by the handling of sharps.