

Sharps Disposal



Safely disposing of used sharps, such as needles and syringes, at designated collection points reduces the risk of harm to other people in our community.

How you dispose of sharps matters

If you use sharps for self-administered healthcare or for non-medical use, it's important not to put them in household or street litter bins.

Used sharps can harm the people that empty the bins or sort through waste by hand at landfill and recycling facilities.

Disposing of your sharps responsibly helps protect community health and safety and can prevent the emotional distress of a sharps or needle-stick injury.

What are sharps?

"Sharps" are medical devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. They include:

- ✓ lancets (finger prickers)
- ✓ syringes
- ✓ insulin pen needles and insulin pump infusion set cannula insertion needles
- ✓ continuous glucose monitoring sensor insertion needles.

How to prepare sharps for disposal

Always make sure your sharps are secured in a **strong plastic container**, such as:

- ✓ An Australian Standard Sharps container
- ✓ A rigid, puncture-resistant plastic container with a well-secured screw top lid, such as a laundry detergent container.

Sharps **should not be stored** in drink containers, glass jars or cardboard boxes. Aluminium cans may squash, glass can shatter, and lightweight plastics (such as soft drink or water bottles) may puncture.

Where can I dispose of sharps?

Places that you can safely dispose of used sharps, free of charge, include:

- ✓ Public hospitals
- ✓ Participating community health centres
- ✓ Participating pharmacies
- ✓ Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) outlets (available to all members of the public). A location map is available at health.nsw.gov.au
- ✓ Community sharps disposal bins.

You can contact City of Newcastle or your local community health care provider for help in finding your nearest disposal option.

In-store drop-off at Piggott's Pharmacy

City of Newcastle has partnered with Piggott's Pharmacy to provide residents with free sharps disposal at **three** locations:

Piggott's Hamilton

83 Beaumont Street, Hamilton
Phone: 4961 3179

Piggott's Lambton

105 Elder Street, Lambton
Phone: 4957 3630

Piggott's Merewether

400 Glebe Road, Merewether
Phone: 4969 1978



All sharps **must** be securely presented in rigid, puncture-resistant plastic containers, as outlined in this flyer.

For more information, call **4974 2000** or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au