

What should I do if I find a sharp?

You can safely dispose it.

Do:

- Use gloves and tongs or shovel and dustpan to collect sharps.
- Store sharps in approved containers.
- Keep sharps away from children and pets.
- Contact us if you have questions or need help.

Don't:

- Place loose sharps in trash.
- Flush sharps down the toilet.
- Clip, bend or recap sharps.
- Put your sharps container in a recycling bin.

Don't pick up sharps with your bare hands—Use gloves and tongs.



Sharps can be dangerous.

Sharps can be a serious health threat. Needle sticks can injure people and transmit diseases like HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and tetanus. That's why it's illegal to put loose sharps in the trash.

If you get stuck by a needle or cut by another sharp, see a healthcare provider immediately.

You can protect public health.

If you find sharps on the ground in a public place, safely pick them up and dispose them. If you don't feel safe, we can help.

Questions? Visit www.tpchd.org/iw or call (253) 798-6047.

Got Sharps? Get rid of them safely.





Don't get stuck.

You or someone you know may have needles or other sharps for health reasons. Don't let them get in the wrong hands—literally. Prevent needle sticks and protect yourself, your family and the community.

What are sharps?

A sharp is any type of sharp medical instrument that comes in contact with blood or other body fluids, like:

- Hypodermic needles.
- Syringes with the needles attached.
- Lancets.
- Scalpel blades.

Do you use syringes to treat diabetes, allergies or other medical conditions? The loose syringes you throw away can hurt people or be used illegally.

How do I safely dispose sharps?

1. Store sharps in an approved sharp container or in rigid, puncture resistant and sealable containers used for:
 - Liquid laundry detergent.
 - Cooking oil.
 - Household bleach.
2. Label your container with a biohazard sticker, or with the words **Sharps—Do Not Recycle**, if not already marked.
3. Drop sharps needle first, into container.
4. Add sharps until container is 3/4 full. Don't overfill.
5. Secure lid or cap tightly on container and tape it closed.
6. Take sharp containers to a free disposal site.



Don't store sharps in:

- Paper or plastic bags.
- Cardboard or paper containers.
- Glass containers.
- Soda bottles, milk jugs or aluminum cans.

Take sharps to these sites for free.

Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center
3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma

Hidden Valley Transfer Station
17925 Meridian E, Puyallup

Prairie Ridge Transfer Station
11710 Prairie Ridge Dr. E, Sumner

Purdy Transfer Station
14515 54th Ave. NW, Gig Harbor

Key Center Transfer Station
5900 Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay

If you can't transport your sharps, put them in marked, closed and sealed containers in your regular trash can.

Mail-back programs available for a fee.

Look online or check with your healthcare provider or pharmacy for mail-back programs.

Report large amounts of sharps. Call (253) 798-6047.