

Sharps Disposal Options for Thurston County Residents

What are Sharps?

Sharps are hypodermic needles, syringes, IV tubing, lancets, auto injectors and scalpel blades. Sharps are used in the home by people with chronic diseases such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

What should I do with my sharps?

Sharps may carry germs, so take care when discarding them. Never flush them down the toilet or place them loose into the trash. Follow these safe disposal tips:

- Place sharps in a manufactured sharps container (available at pharmacies, medical supply stores, and medical providers) or an empty, sturdy plastic bottle with a tight fitting lid. Two-liter pop, bleach or laundry detergent bottles work well. Water bottles (made of a weaker plastic) aren't a good choice.
- When your container is full, secure the lid tightly.
- If you are using an empty plastic bottle, tape the lid for added security and write the words "**sharps waste**" in large letters on the bottle with a permanent marker.
- Place the sharps container in with your trash, never with your recyclables.

Other sharps disposal options

Some companies offer the convenience of home sharps container mailback services. The following websites provide details on starting a mailback service.

- www.sharpsdisposal.com
- www.stericycle.com/consumer-needle-disposal

Never place loose sharps in the trash!



Prescription Medication Disposal for Thurston County Residents

Unwanted or expired prescription medications can be found in most households. Prescription medication abuse is a growing problem, as is the number of medications found in the environment. By taking your medications to one of the locations listed below, you can be sure that they'll be disposed of responsibly.



Prescription Medication Drop Boxes (no sharps)

Thurston County Sheriff's Office

2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Bldg. 3, Olympia
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Lacey Police Department

420 College St. SE, Lacey
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Rainier City Hall

102 Rochester St. W, Rainier
Open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tenino Police Department

358 McClellan St. S, Tenino
Open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tumwater Police Department

555 Israel Rd., Tumwater
Open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Hall location.

Yelm Police Department

206 Mckenzie Ave. SE, Yelm
Open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Group Health Cooperative*

700 Lilly Rd. NE, Olympia
Open Monday - Friday from 9:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

*Please note, this location does not accept controlled substances (narcotics).

Questions? Call the
Hazardous Waste Hotline at (360) 867-2664

Find take back locations outside of
Thurston County at www.takebackyourmeds.org

