

Safely Remove Discarded Sharps



You will need:

Grabbers, tongs or pliers to pick up sharps. Do not use bare hands. Wear gloves—latex or nitrile gloves if you have them.



A ridged plastic container that you can seal. Like a sharps container or empty bleach bottle.



! *Never use a glass jar, milk carton or thin plastic bottle. They can break or the needle can poke through.*

! *Do not try to put the cap back on needle.*

**Call us at (253) 649-1420
for a sharps response kit.**

Follow these steps:

1. Put sharps container on a stable surface.
2. Use grabbers to clear area around the sharp. *Do not use gloved or bare hands.*
3. Use grabber to pick up sharp by the barrel. Do not grab the plunger or needle. Point the needle down and away from you.
4. Put sharp in container. After you pick up all sharps, close the container. Label container "Sharps—Do not recycle."
5. Wash hands with soap and warm water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Call us at (253) 649-1420 if:

- You do not have the equipment needed to safely remove sharps.
- There are too many sharps to safely remove.
- It is a high traffic area with children present, like bus stops, playgrounds or schools.

What if you get poked?



**SEEK
MEDICAL
ATTENTION.**

- Encourage wound to bleed. Hold it under running water.
- Do not suck the wound.
- Wash wound with running water and soap.
- Dry wound and apply a bandage.

Take sharps to these sites for free.

Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Station

3510 S. Mullen St.

Tacoma, WA 98409

Hidden Valley Transfer Station

17925 Meridian E.

Puyallup, WA 98375

Prairie Ridge Transfer Station

11710 Prairie Ridge Dr. E.

Sumner, WA 98391

Purdy Transfer Station

14515 54th Ave. NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Key Center Transfer Station

5900 Key Peninsula Hwy. NW

Lakebay, WA 98349

Learn more at tpchd.org/iw



Tacoma-Pierce County

Health Department

Healthy People in Healthy Communities