



Safe Syringe Clean-Up

We know that used and discarded syringes are a real problem – and we support a variety of harm reduction measures that we believe can alleviate this problem. In the meantime, the good news is that it's possible to clean up syringes safely.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Wear gloves if available, and always wash your hands well afterwards.
- Make sure you can see the syringe clearly (use tools other than your body to move debris around it if needed).
- Pick up the syringe carefully by the middle of the barrel, avoiding the needle end.
- Do not try to recap the syringe, as this is an easy way to accidentally stick yourself.
- Have your disposal container ready to put the syringe into, needle end first. Place the container nearby, so you don't have to travel far with the syringe.

Disposal:

- You can contact Southside at the link below with questions about disposal, including getting a biohazard bin for your household.
<http://www.southsideharmreduction.org/syringe-clean-up-request/>
- Syringes should be placed into a rigid, puncture-proof plastic container (such as an empty laundry detergent bottle) with a screw-on lid. These can be taped shut, labeled "Do not recycle: Household sharps," and put into the trash.
- In Minneapolis, there is also a "syringe drop box pilot program." More info, including a list of current drop box location here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/toolkit/opioidresources>
- More info about disposing of syringes in Hennepin County is available here:
<https://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps>