

SAFE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

In Buncombe County, there continues to be reports of needle litter in our communities. Needlestick injury carries a risk of infectious disease transmission. Here are some basic steps to protect each other and our environment from the impacts of needle litter.

DO NOT throw syringes on the ground, in waterways or in trash cans.



BUNCOMBE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

40 Coxe Ave.
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SAFETY IS THE POINT

Needle Disposal Guidance

Needle litter is becoming a more common occurrence in our community & nationally. **Together, we can reduce needle litter and keep our communities green & safe.**

DISPOSE of needles in proper disposal units.



Laundry Detergent Bottle



Syringe Disposal Unit

USE tongs and puncture resistant gloves to pick up needle waste.



BUNCOMBE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

These safe disposal guidelines are considered best practices for needle safety and disposal.

FOR BUSINESSES

If you are seeing needles in your bathrooms or parking lots, you may want to invest in a syringe disposal unit and educate staff on the proper way to handle used syringes. Choose a metal unit that locks and has replaceable tubs. Staff should wear puncture-resistant gloves and use tongs during collection. Staff should also receive OSHA grade blood borne pathogen training. Tubs should be emptied weekly or monthly, depending on volume. Once full, tubs should be stored in a secure, locked area until disposal. Businesses can team up to establish one convenient and cost effective pick up site.

Here are some biohazard waste management companies that you might consider for monthly disposal.

Carolina Biomed:

(919) 439-6162

Stericycle:

(866) 727-5598

Terracycle (mail back program):

(866) 967-6766

Sharps Assured (mail back program):

(855) 974-2777

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Needlestick Prevention

- Do not pick up a needle from the ground unless necessary (job duties, child nearby, etc.).
- Do not stick your hands where you cannot see if needles may be present.
- If you must pick up, use puncture resistant gloves and shoes, and pick up with tongs from the middle.
- Do not attempt to recap a needle you did not use.

Needlestick Intervention

- Flush and wash the area with soap and water.
- Go to your doctor or nearest emergency room for Hepatitis B and C, and HIV testing.
- If you are not yet vaccinated, ask for Hepatitis B vaccination.
- Begin any preventive measures prescribed
- Follow up per doctor's orders for further testing.

Needle Disposal

- Dispose of needle with the point down in thick plastic container such as personal disposal unit or laundry detergent bottle.
- Ensure cap is on tightly and bring to the Buncombe County Transfer Station:
190 Hominy Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28806
- Or one of our disposal units located at 40 Coxe Ave. or Pack Library.

RESOURCES

If you are a diabetic who needs a personal disposal unit, please visit:

www.safeneedledisposal.org.

If you are a person who uses injection drugs and you need sterile needles, please **call 211** for a Syringe Services program near you.

For local resources on needle disposal and safety visit:

www.buncombecounty.org/safer