

Infection, Prevention and Control team

Sharps bin information

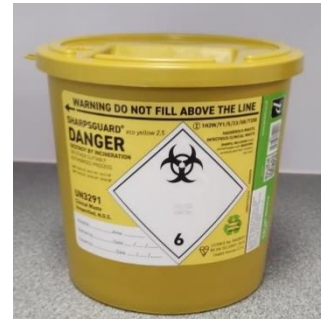


Why have I been given a sharps bin?

You have been given a sharps bin to keep your used medical needles and syringes in until they can be disposed of safely.

A sharps bin is the safest way to protect you, your family and healthcare professionals.

Needles and syringes can cause serious injuries if they are not disposed of safely.



When should I use the sharps bin?

Needles, syringes, and lancets (called 'sharps') must be put into the sharps bin as soon as they have been used.

Where can I get a sharps bin?

You can get a small or large sharps bin on prescription (FP10 prescription form) from your general practitioner or pharmacist.

The large bins come with a lid that **must** be attached securely before using the bin.

How do I use the sharps bin?

The sharps bin will have a label attached with your name; please do not remove this label.

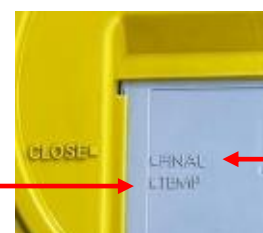
To open

Push the sliding cover back so you can drop the items inside easily.



When not using

Slide the cover across the opening, but not all the way, when you are not using it.



Lock when no longer needed

When the bin is full or no longer needed, slide the cover right across until you hear a clicking sound.



Important – before you reach the black fill line on the sharps bin and close the lid, please order a new sharps bin from your healthcare professional.

What should I do when the bin is full, or I no longer need it?

After closing and locking the sliding cover into place, please add the following information onto the label:

- Your name
- The name of the health clinic
- The date you closed and locked the lid.



The completed label must be left on the sharps bin.

You can take your locked sharps bin to one of the clinics listed at the end of this leaflet.

Purple top containers used for cytotoxic drugs can also be taken to one of these clinics for safe disposal.

If you are a housebound patient and have nobody to take your sharps bin to one of the clinics, please tell the healthcare professional so they can arrange collection for you.

If a healthcare professional does not visit you at home, please call one of the clinics listed at the end of this leaflet and they will complete the request form for you.

It is your responsibility to safely dispose of your sharps bin.

Please only return clean, locked bins – there must be no blood splashes on the sharps bin.

Complete the label before giving to the clinic staff. They will make sure that the sharps bin is:

- Assembled correctly
- Closed
- Labelled correctly and clean.

Please see the helpful tips below on how to use your sharps bin safely.

DO ✓

- ✓ **Do** only use the sharps bin to get rid of your needles and syringes.
- ✓ **Do** only fill the sharps bin to the fill line.
- ✓ **Do** keep your sharps bin in a safe place away from children and pets.
- ✓ **Do** use the sliding cover after each use - this stops the contents spilling when not in use.
- ✓ **Do** close and lock the sliding cover once the sharps bin is full (to the fill line) or you do not need the bin anymore.
- ✓ **Do** make sure your name, health clinic and date locked is on the label when you have locked the bin.

Don't ✗

- ✗ **Don't** put your used needles and syringes in any other container, such as in a drinks can or used plastic food container.
- ✗ **Don't** put any other waste in the sharps bin. It is only designed to take needles and syringes.
- ✗ **Don't** put the sharps bin out with your household waste.
- ✗ **Don't** try to remove a needle or syringe from the sharps bin.
- ✗ **Don't** force needles or syringes into a full bin by pushing down with your hands.
- ✗ **Don't** fill the sharps bin past the black fill line.

Warrington clinics:

Birchwood Health Services
Spencer House
81A Dewhurst Road, Birchwood. WA3 7PG
Telephone number: 01925 946856

Bath Street Health Centre
Legh Street, Warrington. WA1 1UG
Telephone number: 01925 946323

Grappenhall Clinic
Springfield Avenue, Grappenhall, WA4 2NW
Telephone number: 01925 946528

Orford Jubilee Park
Jubilee Drive, Orford. WA2 8HE
Telephone number: 01925 946421

Health Service at Wolves
Martin Dawes Stand, Halliwell Jones, Stadium,
Winnick Road, Warrington. WA2 7NE
Telephone number: 01925 946681

Halton clinics:

St Pauls Health Centre
High Street, Runcorn. WA7 1AB
Telephone number: 01928 564612

Health Care Resource Centre
Oaks Place, Off Caldwell Road, Widnes. WA8 7GD
Telephone number: 01925 946436

Castlefields Health Centre
The Village Square, Castlefield's, Runcorn. WA7 2ST
Telephone number: 01928 566671

Chapelfield Clinic
Wilsden Road, Off Liverpool Road, Widnes. WA8 7XS
Telephone number: 0151 495 5200

**For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by
Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient
Services team on 0800 587 0562.**