



HOMELESSNESS: A PRIMER FOR BUSINESS

INFOSHEET #3

Sharps Disposal¹

There are 2 options to dispose of a discarded syringe:

1. Contact the Purpose Society mobile health van 604-351-1885 for syringe recovery and disposal
2. Self-disposal:
 - i.) Find a rigid plastic container with a secure lid
Options:
 - ◆ sharps container – available free from Purpose Society mobile health van, the Tri-Cities Public Health Unit 200-205 Newport Drive, Port Moody, or ask your local pharmacy if they provide free sharps containers
 - ◆ pop bottle or liquid laundry bottle
 - ii.) Remove the lid and place the container on the ground beside the syringe. Do not break or recap the needle.
 - iii.) Pick up the syringe by the centre of the barrel. Use latex gloves or tongs, if available. Always point the sharp end of the syringe down and away from you.
 - iv.) Do not hold the container in your hand. Put the syringe in the container sharp-end first and secure the lid
 - v.) Safely dispose of container:
Options:
 - ◆ Purpose Society mobile health van 604-351-1885
 - ◆ Share Community & Family Services 2615 Clarke St, Port Moody –blue sharps disposal bin (mailbox size) located outside against the west wall of the building (will accept sharps or sharps containers)
 - ◆ Tri-Cities Public Health Unit 200-205 Newport Drive, Port Moody
 - ◆ Ask your local pharmacy if they provide free sharps disposal services
 - vi.) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

If you are poked or scratched by a needle:

- ◆ Don't panic. The risk of infection is low. There are no reports of HIV infection following a needle stick injury in the community.
- ◆ Wash the affected area with soap and water. Do not squeeze.
- ◆ Seek medical attention immediately.

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¹ Information provided by Fraser Health Authority brochure "Disposing of Needles Safely"
www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/mental-health-and-substance-use/substance-use-addictions/harm-reduction/disposing-of-needles-safely