



SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL

Handling Used and Discarded Needles and Syringes.

What to do if you find a needle or syringe in a public place.

You can either phone the local council to collect needles or syringes

OR

You may choose to dispose of it yourself. If you do choose to do it yourself it is important to follow the recommended advice to minimise the risks.

To safely dispose of a discarded needle or syringe

1. Always assess the area for other possible dangers or hazards
2. Wear gloves or tongs
3. Using a sharps disposable container or a container such as a soft drink or water bottle with a screwable lid place the needle/syringe in the container by either using tongs or by handling only the centre of the barrel
4. Place the needle/syringe in the container needle end first
5. Wash hands thoroughly
6. Dispose of container at an appropriate location (see below)

Things to consider

- Never try to recap any needle or syringes
- Never put your hands in places which you can't see, there could potentially be more needles/syringes
- Latex gloves can be used. The aim is to have a barrier between yourself and any blood/bodily fluids from the needle/syringe. Bulky heavy duty gloves can be cumbersome and can be more unsafe
- Make sure you are in a safe position when picking up needle/syringes. You do not want to slide or fall over and injure yourself

Managing a needle stick injury

- Remain calm
- Gently squeeze the area of the needle stick injury to encourage the area to bleed
- Place area under cold running water for at least 30 seconds then dry the site (if using hot water the blood can congeal)
- Apply antiseptic and a waterproof dressing
- Contact your local doctor, health clinic or hospital for further advice immediately
- Blood tests may be ordered and treatment advised according to the risks

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Shop 1 & 2 Tiwi Place,
Tiwi NT 0810
PO Box 40113,
Casuarina NT 0811
Phone: 08 8927 8488
Fax: 08 8927 8515
E: info@
healthylivingnt.org.au

Alice Springs
Jock Nelson Centre,
7/16 Hartley Street,
Alice Springs NT 0870
Phone: 08 8952 8000
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healthylivingnt.org.au

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Healthy Living NT
is the trading name of the
Diabetes Association
of the Northern Territory
Incorporated.

Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) in the Northern Territory

NSPs have been established to reduce the risk of blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV for people who inject drugs.

The risk of catching a blood-borne virus by accidentally pricking yourself with a used needle is extremely low.

Needle and Syringe Disposal Sites

PRIMARY OUTLETS:

The 3 NSPs are at:

DARWIN	46 Woods Street	Ph 08 8944 7777
ALICE SPRINGS	Shop 3, Reg Harris Lane, Todd Mall	Ph 08 8953 3172
PALMERSTON	Palmerston Health Precinct Cnr Temple Terrace and Rystonea Avenue	Ph. 08 8931 3676

SECONDARY OUTLETS:

Clinic 34

DARWIN	Clinic 34 87 Mitchell Street Darwin City	Ph 08 8999 2678
ALICE SPRINGS	Clinic 34 - Building 2, Stuart Terrace Alcohol and other Drugs Service Central Australia (ADSCA) building	Ph 08 8951 7549
KATHERINE	Clinic 34 O'Keefe House Katherine Hospital campus, Gorge Road	Ph 08 8973 9049
NHULUNBUY	Clinic 34 Corner Mathew Flinders Way and Chesterfield Court	Ph 08 8987 0357
TENNANT CREEK	Clinic 34 Tennant Creek Hospital Cnr Windly and Schmidt Streets	Ph 08 8962 4259

Some Pharmacies also provide limited range of injecting equipment. Some also have disposal facilities.

For more information call the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Unit on
08 8922 8538 or 8922 8874