

Effective July 1st, 2012, a statewide ban prohibits the disposal of sharps in household trash

Why the ban?

In 2005, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) recommended that people no longer throw home-generated sharps into household trash and encouraged safer alternative disposal methods.

A decision was made in Massachusetts to follow the recommendations of the EPA and impose the ban. This step was taken to reduce injuries and incidence of disease.

According to MDPH, worker injuries from sharps in the household trash have been an ongoing concern for the solid waste industry.

Regulation

105CMR 480.000:
Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste State Sanitary Code Chapter VIII

Never Flush Sharps!

For more information about safe disposal of sharps and our Unwanted Medication and Syringe Disposal Days, please contact:

Lowell Health Department's
Substance Abuse & Prevention Division
978-674-4304
or visit www.lowellma.gov

To report discarded syringes, please contact:
The Syringe Collection Program
(978) 674-1049
or visit www.lowellma.gov

To report discarded syringes during **non-business hours or holidays**, please contact:
The Lowell Police Department
(978) 937-3200



**Lowell Health
Department**

Prevent • Promote • Protect



Credits: We thank the Lowell Police Department, Lowell Senior Center, Lowell Community Health Center, and Riverbend (Formerly Lowell House) for their contributions.

Revised: 08/2025



The City of
LOWELL
Alive. Unique. Inspiring.

Safe Disposal of Needles, Syringes, and Lancets

(commonly called “sharps”)



A statewide ban prohibits the disposal of sharps in household trash.

Safe Disposal of Needles, Syringes, and Lancets

Sharps Take-Back Events

**Lowell Health Department
Unwanted Medication &
Sharps Disposal Days**

Hosted at the Lowell Senior Center
276 Broadway Street
Lowell, MA 01854

Disposal days are part of the Health Department's efforts to reduce the high number of unwanted prescription medications and sharps in residents' homes.

Our disposal days are held quarterly. Please call the Substance Abuse & Prevention Division at (978) 674-4304 or visit www.lowellma.gov for more information.



Syringe Drop-Off Sites in Lowell

Lowell Health Department
Kiosk Disposal Available
107 Merrimack Street, 4th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 674-4304

Mon, Wed, Thurs: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Lowell Senior Center
276 Broadway Street, Lowell, MA 01854
Phone: (978) 674-1171

Monday-Friday 7:00am - 3:00pm

Lowell Community Health Center
Kiosk Disposal Available
101 Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 937-9700

Monday-Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Riverbend (Formerly Lowell House)
Kiosk Disposal Available
200 Central Street, Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 459-8656

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-3:00pm

All sharps must be in a sharps container or a puncture proof container, such as a rigid liquid detergent bottle or bleach bottle. These sites will not accept commercial disposal, only residential disposals.

Syringe Collection Program

The City of Lowell's Syringe Collection Program is now available to pick up discarded syringes in Lowell.

To report a discarded needle(s), please call (978) 674-1049 during program hours and the Non-Emergency Police Line at (978) 937-3200 after hours.

Syringe Collection Program Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Wednesday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

If you are calling to report a discarded needle that needs to be picked up, please leave a message that includes the address and specific location of the needle, how many needles have been found, and any additional details that would help locate the needle. Although this is a confidential service, please consider leaving your name and phone number in case more information is needed to locate the discarded needle.

