



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Keep injecting
equipment away
from others

Dispose of used works safely

You have a responsibility to ensure that others, including children, are not affected by the unsafe disposal of your injecting equipment.

All used equipment must be disposed of in a sharps bin, this should include: needles, filters, swabs, tissues, spoons, foil, crack pipes, Citric and Vitamin C sachets, water amps etc. The sharps bin should then be returned to your local needle exchange or pharmacy.

Sharps bins come in all shapes and sizes, from very small pocket bins, which can be easily carried in a bag, to larger 4 and 7 litre bins.

Even if you are injecting yourself, it is important to be aware of the risks caused by needle-stick injury. Hepatitis, HIV and other infections may be passed on.

- Never handle other people's works.
- Never share any equipment.
- Always put everything in a sharps bin straight after use.

Children

Children should not be witness to drug using behaviour, for example seeing you or others injecting.

It is important to be aware that children and babies do not have the same understanding of danger as we do, they are unlikely to be frightened of needles or works, and may attempt to grab them or pick them up.

If you or someone else is using injecting equipment within your home, keep a sharps bin in a locked secure place out of the reach and out of sight of children and make sure all equipment is disposed of immediately.

If you find used works on the street or in your garden - DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PICK UP, MOVE OR DISPOSE OF THEM - EVEN IF THEY LOOK CLEAN. Make sure your children do not touch them: there is a risk of becoming infected with Hepatitis and HIV.

Call your local council who will have appropriate arrangements for the collection and disposal of hazardous litter in public areas.

Emergency action

If you think you have put yourself at risk from a needlestick injury, you should:

- 1) Encourage bleeding by squeezing the site.
- 2) Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- 3) Cover up with a plaster to prevent bacteria from entering the wound.
- 4) Seek immediate medical attention - don't panic, but it is important that you get checked out, you may need to be tested for Hepatitis and HIV, you will be supported through this process.

Contact your local needle exchange for collection or disposal of sharps bins.

Pharmacies in Reading offering needle exchange:

- Battle (479 Oxford Rd, Tel: 0118 957 1681)
- Burghfield (Reading Road Tel: 0118 983 1145)
- Butlers (266- 268 Oxford Rd Tel: 0118 957 2556)
- Caversham (59a Hemdean Road Tel: 0118 947 1776)
- Day Lewis (15 Maiden Lane Lower Earley Tel: 0118 9351848)
- Erleigh (85 Erleigh Road Tel: 0118 9663718)
- Fourways (192 London Road Tel: 0118 966 0541)

- Jats (422a Finchamstead Road 0118 958 6502)
- Moss (Unit 2 Asda Mall Lower Earley Tel: 0118 931 1750)
- Moss (33 Broad Street Wokingham Tel: 0118 978 7459)
- Phillips (1 London Rd Twyford Tel: 0118 934 5750)
- RK Sarna (60 Wensley Road Tel: 0118 959 0270)
- Tilehurst Triangle (88-90 Scholl Road Tel: 0118 942 7523)
- Western Elms (351- 353 Oxford Road Tel: 0118 973 5455)
- Whitley Wood (534 Northumberland Avenue Tel: 0118 987 2023)

Newbury Swanswell, 1 Station Road, Newbury RG14 7PL

Contact: 0300 003 7025 Drop-in times are Monday - Friday from 12-4pm at 1 Station Road

Wokingham Waste Services Team offers a free and confidential service for sharps collection from private homes in Wokingham. Contact 0118 974 6302/6303 or e-mail waste.services@wokingham.gov.uk.

New Hope in **Bracknell** operates a Needle Exchange. New Hope, 92 Broadway, Bracknell RG12 1AR Contact: 01344 312360

South Oxfordshire community safety team on 01491 823607

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