

# Proper Disposal of Needles and Syringes

The Lawrence Health Department will accept the drop off of household sharps containers during normal business hours only. NO OTHER CONTAINERS WILL BE ACCEPTED (no bleach or detergent bottles).



DO NOT dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list web link below).\* If your community does not currently have a disposal site, place them in a rigid, puncture resistant plastic container with a secure cap before placing in the garbage.

Needles, syringes and sharps containers may not be thrown in recycling bins.

\*Effective July 1, 2012, medical waste regulations will not allow the disposal of sharps in household garbage.

For more information and disposal sites list please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf>

## **M. G. L. 105 CMR 480.000:**

### **480.125: Home Sharps**

(A) Effective July 1, 2012, home sharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, shall not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and shall be collected and disposed of in accordance with 105 CMR 480.12S(B).

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/regs/105cmr480.pdf>

# Dispose of Unused Prescription Drugs

In the face of rising trends in prescription drug abuse, the federal government recently issued new guidelines for the proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly released the new guidelines, which are designed to reduce abuse of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment.

The new federal prescription drug disposal guidelines suggest:

- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- To prevent others from using these substances, mix them with coffee grounds or kitty litter and throw them away in a sealed container.
- Flush prescription drugs down the toilet only if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/wellness/alcohol-tobacco-drugs/alcohol-drugs/stop-pill-abuse/tips-prevent-abuse/dispose-of-unused-prescription-drugs.html>