

**The Carlisle Board of Health,  
Council on Aging, and  
Department of Public Works  
are working together to provide  
Carlisle residents with a safe  
alternative for sharps disposal.**

Collection of syringes, needles and lancets (“sharps”) will be available at the Spring hazardous waste collection. Other disposal alternatives are being explored. Residents may collect their sharps in a sharps disposal box, available at local pharmacies, and save them for next spring’s hazardous waste collection.

If you prefer to dispose of the sharps sooner, you may use one of the options described in this brochure or contact the Board of Health office 978-369-0283 or website [www.carlislema.gov](http://www.carlislema.gov) for more information.

***The Board of Health does not endorse or recommend any products or services, but makes the information available so that residents can make informed decisions for themselves. The information is believed to be correct at this time and is for informational purposes and not intended as medical advice.***

**For more information about  
safe disposal of needles,  
syringes and lancets,  
please contact the  
Carlisle Board of Health  
978-369-0283**

<http://www.carlislema.gov>



*Credits:*

*This brochure was prepared by the Safe Home Care Project at the University of Massachusetts Lowell*

*Photos courtesy of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ([www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov))*

Summer 2012



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Carlisle, Massachusetts**

## **Disposal of Needles, Syringes and Lancets (“sharps”) used at home**



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



## TOWN OF CARLISLE, MASSACHUSETTS

### Options for disposal of needles, syringes, and lancets include:

#### About the ban

Effective July 1 of this year, a statewide ban on the disposal of needles, syringes and lancets (referred to as “sharps”) in household trash takes effect.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) took this step to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, via amendments to its medical waste regulations [105 CMR 480.000: Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste (State Sanitary Code Chapter VIII)].

According to the DPH, the solid waste industry has made it clear that worker injuries from sharps disposal in household trash remain a significant concern.

**Carlisle residents may not discard sharps in household trash.**

- Collect your sharps in a sharps disposal box, available at local pharmacies, and save them for **next spring’s hazardous waste collection**
- The MA DPH provides a **list of statewide collection sites**, found online<sup>1</sup>. Restrictions apply at some sites, so contact the site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules.
- When use of a local sharps collection program is not convenient, you may purchase a **postage-paid mail-back kit** to mail your sharps to a medical waste handler for disposal.

**Mail-back kits** may be ordered at local pharmacies, purchased by phone or online. They typically include a sharps container, a mailing carton with prepaid postage, and a tracking form to verify proper disposal. The full container is placed in the mailing carton and mailed directly to the company’s facility for incineration.



**For more information  
contact the  
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978-369-0283**

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf>