



SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF NEEDLES

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Keeping Vanier safe is our collective responsibility. Improperly discarded needles, crack pipes, and other drug paraphernalia has been identified as a serious concern.

What to do if you find used needles, crack pipes or other drug paraphernalia:

- Treat all needles and crack pipes (glass stems) as contaminated.
- Wear gloves (i.e. latex, rubber or leather gardening gloves). Gloves are meant to protect against fluid contamination, not punctures or cuts.
- Use tongs, pliers or tweezers to pick up the needle. Be sure to clean and disinfect the pickup instrument afterwards.
- Pick up the needle by the plastic end (syringe).
- Point the needle tip away from your body. Be very careful not to poke yourself with the needle.
- Put the sharps disposal container on a stable surface next to the needle. Do not hold the container in your hand while placing the needle inside.
- Place the needle point down into the container. Do not force the needle into the container.
- If you do not have a specialized sharps container, put the needle into a non-breakable, puncture-proof container with a lid (i.e. thick plastic bottle or tin can).
- Close the container securely.
- Find the nearest needle disposal location. Do not flush needles down the toilet or put them in the garbage or recycling bin.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after removal of gloves.



Note: Children should never touch a discarded needle, crack pipe or other drug paraphernalia. If an adult chooses not to pick up a needle or crack pipe to safely dispose of them, call 3-1-1 to make arrangements to have the City pick them up immediately.

Important: If you have picked up used needles or other drug paraphernalia, please report these finds to **Ottawa Public Health** at needlereporting@ottawa.ca and indicate the following information:

- Your name and contact information
- What was found
- How many
- The exact or closest address to the pickup location
- The date of the pickup

If a needle injury occurs:

- Allow wound to bleed freely but do not squeeze site
- Flush thoroughly with water
- Immediately seek medical treatment at a **hospital ER**