

TAKE IT BACK

ONTARIO
SHARPS
COLLECTION
PROGRAM



To ensure safe and proper disposal, use an approved sharps container and take any used sharps back to your nearest participating pharmacy free of charge, or find more information at www.healthsteward.ca





What is the Ontario Sharps Collection Program?

The Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP) is a new stewardship program for the province of Ontario that promotes the safe and easy disposal of “sharps”. A sharp is any device that is designed to pierce your skin, or the skin of your companion animal. Examples of sharps include lancets, syringes and needles. If you have any questions about what is included in the OSCP, ask your pharmacist.



How Can I Safely Store and Discard Sharps?

Used sharps should be collected in an approved yellow sharps container (1.4L or 4.5L) available free of charge from your pharmacist. Other yellow sharps containers that are leak-proof, puncture-resistant and labeled with a universal biohazard symbol may be accepted at the pharmacist’s discretion. If you are injecting chemotherapeutic drugs, your pharmacist will provide you with a sharps container that has a cytotoxic label on it. All other types of containers used to hold used sharps are unacceptable.



Do not bend, clip, break or recap used sharps. When disposing of a used sharp, the needle tip should be held outward while placing it into an approved container. The container should not be filled beyond the fill-line indicated on the outside of the container. All sharps containers should be stored in the home in a safe and secure location that is out of sight and out of reach of children.



Why the Ontario Sharps Collection Program?

The purpose of the OSCP is to ensure that any used or unneeded sharps, are NOT disposed of in the garbage or recycling, but through proper disposal channels found at pharmacies. Improper disposal puts trash and municipal workers, janitors, housekeepers, household members, children and pets at risk of being harmed. Safe sharp disposal is important whether you are at home, at work, at school, traveling, or in other public places.



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What Happens to the Sharps?

From the time you bring them to the pharmacy, the OSCP will ensure the safe and appropriate end-of-life management of all your sharps and needles according to provincial health and environmental regulations. The biomedical sharps are treated using a high pressure steam sterilization process (typically a commercial autoclave) and the cytotoxic sharps are treated using high temperature incineration.



<< What About Medications?



The Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP) offers a similar collection network at participating pharmacies for prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and natural health products. For more information, call your pharmacist or visit www.healthsteward.ca.

<< Who is HPSA?



HEALTH PRODUCTS
STEWARDSHIP
ASSOCIATION

The Health Product Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a not-for-profit association funded and governed by the health products industries. The HPSA implements the OSCP and the OMRP and offers a service of safe and proper disposal of sharps and medication free of charge for the public in participating provinces.

<< Questions?

Call your pharmacist, visit www.healthsteward.ca, or send us an email at info@healthsteward.ca.

