

Get a free sharps container.

Keep sharps containers closed between uses, and store away from children and pets.



If you don't have a sharps container, place used needles in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid and label it "sharps." **Don't put used needles**

in glass containers or in containers that aren't puncture proof (like soda cans, milk cartons, coffee cans).



Don't throw used needle(s)/sharps into the trash, recycling, toilet, or sewer.

Don't break off needles (points). If the point gets broken off, pull the plunger out of the barrel of the syringe, put the point in the barrel, and replace the plunger.

Try to keep enough needles so you have a new one for every injection until you can get more.

Don't share used needles or other equipment.

For more information...

HIV Testing and Hepatitis C Testing

www.sfhiv.org

SF Syringe Access Programs & Safe Disposal

www.sfhiv.org (locations/schedules)

Substance Use & Mental Health Services

Treatment Access Program

(415) 255-3737 or (888) 246-3333

Harm Reduction Therapy Center at Hospitality House

6th Street self-help center (415) 369-3040

Tenderloin self-help center (415) 749-2143

Stonewall Project (for gay, bi & heteroflexible men)

(415) 487-3100

HIV Health Info Line

Project Inform 1-800-822-7422

The ISIS Clinic/Wound Care Clinic 4C

(415) 206-8287

SF General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Ave, 4th Floor, 4C

Mon-Fri 8:00-4:00 PM (please arrive by 2 PM)

Sat & Sun 8:00-12:00 Noon (please arrive by 11 AM)

The DOPE Project/Overdose Prevention

Free Naloxone/Narcan Distribution

(510) 444-6969 x16 www.harmeducation.org

Safer Injection Information

Harm Reduction Coalition www.harmeducation.org

Contact Us

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Population Health Division

Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch

25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 500

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 437-6218

Visit us on the web: www.sfhiv.org

Syringe Access and Disposal in San Francisco



Effective January 1, 2015:
Assembly Bill (AB) 1743 allows pharmacists to sell an unlimited number of syringes to adults 18+ without a prescription until January 1, 2021.

Where can I buy syringes?

Pharmacies in San Francisco participate, include:

Walgreens Pharmacies

To find a location, visit www.walgreens.com

Safeway Pharmacies

To find a location, visit www.safeway.com

Where can I get a free sharps container to put used syringes?

Any Syringe Program or Walgreens

Where can I drop off my full sharps container?

Any Walgreens – Walgreens has partnered with the Department of Public Health as a disposal site for syringes in sharps containers.

Any Public Health clinic or San Francisco General Hospital – To find a location call 3-1-1 or visit www.sfdph.org

Where can I drop off used syringes whether or not they are in a container?

Any Syringe Program

24-hour drop boxes, located:

- Next to GLIDE, 330 Ellis St. @ Taylor St.
- Outside 50 Ivy St. near Tom Waddell Clinic
- Near 76 Ivy St., near Please Touch Garden
- 150 Golden Gate Avenue
- 149 Turk Street
- On Alameda between San Bruno and Vermont
- 45 Jones Street
- Leavenworth between McAllister & Golden Gate Ave
- 133 Golden Gate (St. Boniface)
- 1950 Mission Street (The Navigation Center)

Types of Syringes/Needles

If you don't know the standard terminology for the syringe/needle you want to purchase, ask the pharmacy staff to assist you by showing you which syringes are available for purchase. Below is an overview of syringes/needles provided at most Syringe Programs. At pharmacies the availability of all of these types of needles/syringes depends on the pharmacy location.

Super Shorts (Bee Stingers)

Used for surface veins. Come in 2 volumes:
31 gauge, 5/16 inch needle, 1 cc barrel
31 gauge, 5/16 inch needle, 1/2 cc barrel



Micros (29's)

Used for small veins and for injecting in hands & feet.
29 gauge, 1/2 inch needle, 1 cc barrel



Micros (Halves, 29 Gauge Micros)

Same as above but holds half the volume.
29 gauge, 1/2 inch needle, 1/2 cc barrel



Shorts

The standard syringe.
28 gauge, 1/2 inch needle, 1 cc barrel



Halves (28 Gauge Micros)

Same as above but holds half the volume.
28 gauge, 1/2 inch needle, 1/2 cc barrel



Longs

Used for deeper or scarred veins.
27 gauge, 5/8 inch needle, 1 cc barrel



Muscle

Used only for injecting into muscle. Comes in 2 lengths and 2 gauges:
25 gauge, 1 inch needle, 3 cc barrel
23 gauge, 1-1/2 inches needle, 3 cc barrel

