



Useful Advice

- Your pharmacy can advise on which sharps bin is best for you.
- Some sharps must be disposed of in a sharps bin with a purple lid due to the type of medication, e.g. Methotrexate. Please check with your pharmacy.
- NEVER share syringes or finger pricking devices.
- NEVER re-cap needles.
- Do not store your Sharps bin on the floor, or above shoulder height.

What can I put into the sharps bin?

- Lancets
- Needles and syringes
- Full needle clippers
- Needles from insulin pen devices
- Syringes/injections with needles attached

What should not go into the Sharps bin?

- Insulin pen devices with the needles removed
- Batteries
- Aerosols
- Tablets
- Razors
- Dressings



Managing Prescribed Sharps Safely in Fife

Important information for people who -

- Take medication using a needle
- Self test, e.g. blood sugar



If you use a needle to inject prescribed medication or for testing your blood, it is your responsibility to dispose of the needles safely.

Needles should only be disposed of in a Sharps bin which is specially designed for this purpose.

Why do I need a sharps bin?

A Sharps bin is the safest way to dispose of used Sharps.

You can use your Sharps bin to dispose of medical supplies such as:

- **Used syringes, injections and devices which have a needle attached**
- **Used finger pricking devices**
- **Used insulin pump sharps**
- **Full needle clipping devices**

How do I get a sharps bin?

Your Sharps bins are supplied without the need for a prescription from all pharmacies in Fife.

Just ask when you next visit.

Using the sharps bin

- Before putting any sharps into the bin, make sure the lid is securely attached.
- After you have used needles or other similar medical supplies, put them into the Sharps bin immediately. **NEVER** take them out again.
- **DO NOT** fill above the black line marked on the bin.
- Close the temporary closure on the lid when not in use, but be careful not to fully close the lid.
- While your Sharps bin is in use or waiting to be collected, keep it in a safe place so that it is not a risk to others, and out of the reach of children.

What should I do when the sharps bin is full?

- When the container is filled up to the black line, close the lid firmly until you hear it "click" - this means it is locked and cannot be opened.
- Write your name and the date on the label.
- The pharmacy can only accept your full sharps bin if the lid is fully closed and the label has been correctly completed.
- Take the full bin to your local pharmacy where you will be supplied with replacement bins.
- The pharmacy will ask YOU to place your full bin into a larger pharmacy sharps container.

