



Found a syringe on the Kenai?

The Kenai Peninsula has limited options for found-needle disposal.

Please consider getting a medical sharps container to have on hand in case you come across a used needle. Soldotna and Seward hospitals can provide sharps containers, or you can buy one for a few dollars at some pharmacy or general stores. Call ahead to check.

Needles in non-medical containers (sturdy, lidded plastic bottles) are only accepted at the Soldotna hospital, at Homer's hospital once a month or, if necessary, the Nikiski fire stations.

Do not dispose of used needles at the Central Peninsula Landfill or any trash transfer site.



- 1) If you find a used needle:**
Pick it up carefully. Wear gloves. Some people like to use pliers or tongs, but use them only if you can get a reliable grip. You don't want the needle to flip out of your tool's grasp.

Never break the needle off or try to recap it. This may cause injury or spread disease or germs. **If you are stuck with a needle** clean the site with soap and water or an antiseptic such as rubbing alcohol, and call your doctor or a hospital.

- 2) Put the needle in a medical sharps container.** If a needle is in a high-traffic area and there is a risk of injury to people or pets, the next best option is a puncture-proof, lidded plastic bottle (a thick one, like a jug for detergent or kitty litter).

- 3) Take the container to an approved drop-off site.** Here are some drop-off sites and their policies:



Soldotna/Kenai

Central Peninsula Hospital, 240 Hospital Place, will take needles in a sturdy plastic container, but they much prefer medical sharps containers; they will give you a free one. If you can, get one before doing roadside clean-up. If you do bring in a non-medical container, please mark it "Sharps" and duct-tape the lid shut. 714-4404; open 24/7.

Nikiski

The fire stations at 44800 Kenai Spur Hwy. (776-6401) and 51770 Kenai Spur Hwy. (776-6402) can take sharps in a pinch, but they're not set up for regular drop offs. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Homer

South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., 235-8101, accepts used needles 1-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the loading dock area, in sharps containers or sturdy lidded non-medical containers. Please write "SHARPS/Do Not Recycle" on non-medical containers with a marker, and duct-tape the lids shut.

Seward

Providence Seward Medical Center, 417 First Ave., 224-5205, will only accept sharps in a medical container. They will give you a free one. Open 24/7.

HOMER

