Found a needle, now what?

Found on Private Property:
(e.g. homes, apartments, condos, commercial)

- Property owners are responsible for removing needle waste found on their property. See below for instructions or call for help.

Adults can safely dispose of a found needle by following these steps:

**Reminder:** Children should never touch a discarded needle.

1. Bring a puncture-proof, sealable container to the needle (e.g., empty pop bottle).
2. Carefully pick up the needle by the middle of the plastic tube with the sharp end facing down.
3. Place the needle in the container sharp end first. Close the container tightly.
4. Remove gloves; wash your hands and equipment with soap and water.
5. Bring the container to a:
   - a) Community needle disposal bin,
   - b) Needle Syringe Program site,
   - c) Local household hazardous waste site

For disposal site locations visit: [www.hamilton.ca/NeedleDisposal](http://www.hamilton.ca/NeedleDisposal)

Never flush or dispose of needles in the garbage or in Blue Box containers

What if a needle pokes me?
The risk of serious infection from a discarded needle poke is very low, but it is important to take care of this kind of injury.

- Allow the puncture site to bleed freely.
- Wash the area well with soap and water.
- Go to any emergency room.

**NEED HELP?** Contact the City of Hamilton 905-546-2489

For more information about harm reduction supplies and safe disposal in Hamilton, call 905-546-4276 or visit: [www.hamilton.ca/NeedleDisposal](http://www.hamilton.ca/NeedleDisposal)

Adapted with permission from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (Public Health and Emergency Services)