

Sharps disposal and reporting

The Shire of Katanning has 23 public sharps disposal units located across the local government area. These units are maintained and serviced regularly by the Shire. A list of locations can be found in the toilet facilities at the following locations:

- All Ages Playground
- Lions Park
- Piesse Park
- Lake Ewlyamartup
- Town Square
- Town Hall
- Cemetery

If no disposal unit is nearby, place sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid before disposing of it in your household rubbish bin.

If you find a sharp, it can be reported to the Shire

Report it via an email to admin@katanning.wa.gov.au or on 9821 9999

Reports help us respond promptly, record the date and location and identify potential “hot-spot” areas for targeted monitoring and clean-up.

The Shire recommends that used syringes are handled by trained persons only, however, if you must handle one, please follow the instructions below.

1. Do not be alarmed.
2. Get a rigid-walled, puncture resistant, plastic container with a well-secured lid, preferably screw top. Avoid using glass which can shatter, aluminium that can be squashed or frosted plastic that may not be puncture-proof.
3. Bring the container to the needle and syringe, and place on the ground next to the needle and syringe. Do not hold the container as you are putting the syringe in it.
4. Pick up the used needle and syringe by the blunt end, away from the point. Do not touch the sharp point. **If you can, use tongs or protect your hand with a glove**
5. Do not try to put the plastic protective cap back on a needle if it has been removed.

6. Put the needle and syringe, point first into the container. More than one needle and syringe can be placed in the container, but do not overfill. Do not carry the needle and syringe unless it is in a suitable container.
7. Make sure the container is tightly sealed.
8. Put the sealed container in a domestic rubbish bin. Do not put needles and syringes down toilets, in recycling bins or post boxes.
9. Tell children never to pick up a needle, but to let an adult know if they find one.
10. Do not put needles or syringes down toilets or drains
11. Report the sharp to the Shire of Katanning

If you are a user of needles/syringes, please remember:

- Never share syringes
- Never re-use syringes
- DO NOT break the needle off the syringe

Needle-Stick Injury

The Shire asks users of syringes not to leave syringes lying in toilets, streets, parks or drains as it creates a health risk. However, residents should note that the risk of catching a blood borne virus (such as HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C) by sustaining an accidental needle stick injury is extremely low.

If you receive a needle-stick injury, do not panic. Your risk of contracting a blood-borne virus is extremely low. Following an injury, immediately rinse the wound with flowing water, and then wash well with soap and water. Cover the wound with a Band-Aid and seek medical attention to assess your risks of bacterial and blood-borne virus infection. Where possible, retrieve the syringe for testing or disposal, or isolate the area to prevent others from injuring themselves.

For more information

Visit Healthy WA: https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Safe-disposal-of-needles-and-syringes