

# Sharps Safety

## A GUIDE TO THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF COMMUNITY SHARPS IN MAITLAND



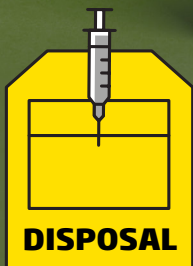
WARNING - DO NOT FILL ABOVE THIS LINE ↑

**DANGER**

CONTAMINATED SHARPS ONLY  
DESTROY BY INCINERATION



DANGER FOR INFECTION



## WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SHARPS?

Many people rely on using needles and syringes to maintain their own health or that of a family member. Injecting equipment is also used by injecting drug users, and for animal healthcare by pet and livestock owners.

Community sharps is the name used to describe needles, syringes, lancets and similar equipment resulting from these activities.

## DISPOSAL OF COMMUNITY SHARPS

Community sharps should always be kept secure and separate from other wastes. Because of the high risk of injury to workers and other community members, they should **never** be disposed of:

- ✗ In household waste or recycling bins (plastic syringes are not recyclable)
- ✗ In public litter bins
- ✗ By flushing down toilets or drains
- ✗ By discarding into the environment

## USE COMMUNITY SHARPS BINS FOR THE CORRECT DISPOSAL OF YOUR SHARPS

- ✓ Use a yellow sharps container or other similar sized appropriate puncture resistant container (e.g. heavy duty plastic, not glass)
- ✓ Store the container out of reach of children
- ✓ Seal the lid of the container when 3/4 full and dispose of container at one of the community sharps disposal facilities listed in this brochure

## SHARPEN UP YOUR SHARPS DISPOSAL FOR ALL USED SYRINGES, NEEDLES AND LANCETS AND KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

**Maitland community sharps bins are available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**Disposal is free of charge.**

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND INJECTING EQUIPMENT

While the risk of acquiring a serious infection as a result of an accidental injury from a community sharp is extremely low, the anxiety resulting from such an injury can be significant.

## IF YOU FIND A SYRINGE IN A PUBLIC PLACE HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY BY CALLING:

Needle Clean Up Hotline 1800 633 353

Maitland City Council 02 4934 9700

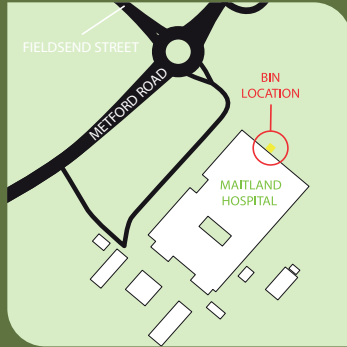


# FREE COMMUNITY SHARPS DISPOSAL FACILITIES

## MAITLAND HOSPITAL

51 Metford Road, Metford

A collection bin is located adjacent to the visitor parking at the new Maitland Hospital.



## MAITLAND CITY LIBRARY

480 High Street, Maitland

A collection bin is located in the car park underneath the footbridge.



## RUTHERFORD LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Arthur Street, Rutherford

A collection bin is located against the outside wall of the Community Centre, near the entrance to Rutherford Library.





**For further information on disposal of  
community sharps contact:**

Maitland City Council  
PO Box 220, Maitland NSW 2320

t 02 4934 9700

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