



## **Safe disposal available for medications, sharps, mercury thermometers**

Dec. 19 2023 - The Health Department receives several calls a month from residents asking about proper disposal of sharps, medications, and mercury thermometers.

### **Thermometers**

Any older thermometers containing mercury may be disposed of at the Department of Public Works front office (behind fire and police stations at 213 South Main St.). Mercury may not be disposed of with residential trash. Any new model digital thermometers may be disposed of in residential trash.

## **Sharps**

“...Home sharps as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets shall not be disposed in solid municipal waste,” according to a regulation passed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in 2012.

The Fire Department has residential sharps disposal every day between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Please enter the Public Safety building (police station) at 213 South Main St and let the dispatcher know you are there to dispose of sharps- they will call a member from the Fire Department to come down and take them from you.

Red biohazard boxes are preferred. If one is not available, then all sharps must be in an opaque (not clear), puncture proof container such as a detergent, bleach bottle or large coffee can. The container must be sealed and labeled “Do not recycle.” Please do not leave sharps outside the Fire Department doors.

## **Medications**

With more than 3,000 prescription medications available in the US and hundreds more over the counter medications available for purchase, proper disposal of medications is an emerging social and environmental concern.

Medications that are past their due date or were prescribed for a condition no longer present should be discarded and not kept in the house. This decreases the risk of ground water contamination or illicit drug use.

The Health Department at the Town Offices, 90 S. Main St., has a medication disposal kiosk available during office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday.

Prescriptions, over the counter meds, samples, pet medication, ointments and liquid medications in a glass or leak-proof container are accepted.

The Health Department also has kits available for residents to safely dispose of their own medication at home (located just beside the disposal kiosk).

The town of Sharon is fortunate to have these services available and with everyone’s effort, unwanted hazardous waste and medications will be discarded properly. If you have any questions or would like further information, please

contact the Health Department at [shealth@townofsharon.org](mailto:shealth@townofsharon.org) or (781) 784-1500  
ext. 1205.