

Thank You!

A program of the
Portage County
Solid Waste Department,
Stevens Point Police
& Plover Police

Thank you to the Stevens Point and Plover Police Departments for partnering with us to help make this program possible.

The Portage County community will be safer due to the timely, safe and proper disposal of unwanted and old medicines.

Portage County Solid Waste Department
715-343-6297
www.co.portage.wi.us
Departments

Medicine Drop-Off Boxes



Stevens Point Police
Dispatch Entrance
Plover Police
Post Rd. Entrance



Safely dispose of medicine when YOU want to!



The Portage County Solid Waste Department and the Stevens Point and Plover Police Departments are pleased to announce residents now have access to **two** permanent drop-off sites for unwanted medicine!

Medication not properly disposed could increase the risk of theft of these items and of drug abuse. In addition, it is vitally important to dispose of medications in a safe manner, because flushing them down the drain or putting them in the trash contaminates ground and surface waters.

What Is And Is NOT Accepted

Prescription and over-the-counter medicines **are** allowed.

Please **DO NOT** bring in nebulizers (inhalers), empty medicine containers, radioactive medicines, syringes or needles. To learn about the **proper**, safe disposal of syringes and needles, call 715-343-6297, the Portage County Solid Waste Department and ask about the Sharps Program.



Locations & Procedures

Stevens Point's purple box for controlled, convenient access will be located outside of the Stevens Point Police Department Dispatch Center. Access is from the underpass, of the City building at 1515 Strongs Ave.

The drop-off location has 24-hour, 7-day-a-week availability. Residents using the drop box enter the monitored and secure area through the Stevens Point Police Department's after-hours entryway.

Plover's blue box is mounted on the lobby wall, and is available Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enter through the Plover Police Department's Post Road entrance at 2420 Post Road.

Leave the medicine in its original container. Please keep the name of the medication on the container for easier identification. But remove your name, address and phone number.

Local pharmacists work with the police and Solid Waste Department to identify the various medicines and ensure proper disposal.

Controlled medications from the Stevens Point and Plover Police Departments are retained in police custody until destroyed.

History

In recent years, the Solid Waste Department, local pharmacists and local organizations collaborated to hold regular collection events, in an effort to help residents get rid of these potentially harmful substances.

County residents have shown strong interest in these collection events, bringing in hundreds of pounds of a wide variety of medications. Because of this high level of participation, local officials investigated ways to have a permanent drop-off site so residents would not have to wait months to dispose of their pharmaceuticals.

The Portage County Coalition for Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention will likely continue to hold collection events, but the drop-off boxes provide an additional and permanent option for those who wish to use them.

For more information

For information and brochures about this and the other waste solution programs offered by the Portage County Solid Waste Department log on to www.co.portage.wi.us/solidwaste or call the Solid Waste Dept at 715-343-6297.

Portage County
Solid Waste Department

Operations :
715-343-6297

SHARPS COLLECTION LOCATIONS

**Copps Pharmacy
Stevens Point**
(715) 345 - 7175

**Copps Pharmacy
Plover**
(715) 344 - 0066

**Shopko Pharmacy
Stevens Point**
(715) 344 - 1230

**Shopko Pharmacy
Plover**
(715) 342 - 9368

**Trigs Pharmacy
Stevens Point**
(715) 341 - 6102

***All locations will accept sharps in either a commercial sharps disposal container or in a heavy plastic container, such as a detergent bottle, with a screw-on cap.**

This Household Sharps Collection Program is paid for and sponsored by the Portage County Solid Waste Department, which appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the participating pharmacies.

To ensure its continuation, please follow all instructions in this brochure. Additionally, this will ensure the safety of your family, the public, as well as pharmacy staff and customers.

**For more information about solid waste disposal and recycling in Portage County call the Scale Office at
(715) 343 - 6297**

DISCLAIMER: *This fact sheet is not intended as a substitute for the regulations and statutes that apply. Rather, it is a brief summary of the topic. Please consult Wisconsin's regulations and statutes for more information.*

Portage County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) gratefully acknowledge the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for permission to use information from their "Disposal of Household Sharps" brochure.

Household SHARPS Collection Program

**PORTAGE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE
DEPARTMENT**



Safely and conveniently dispose of sharps generated from your home with no sign up or forms required. Available to Portage County residents at *no charge.*

September 2018

SHARPS DISPOSAL

Sharps (needles, syringes, and lancets) that are not properly handled or are improperly discarded can pose a health risk of infections and diseases to family members, sanitation and recycling center workers, and others who might be accidentally stuck by them.



Sharps must be disposed of separately from regular trash or recyclables. The Portage County Solid Waste Department works with local pharmacies to provide a safe and economical collection program for residents* only, who use sharps at home.

**Institutions, clinics, veterinarians or other commercial locations are not allowed to participate.*

SIMPLE STEPS TO SAFE PACKAGING

Best practices:

- You may collect your sharps in a commercial sharps disposal container. These are sold at most pharmacies.
- You may also use a properly labeled, heavy plastic detergent or bleach jug with a screw-on cap for sealing tightly. It must be rigid, puncture-resistant plastic.
- Place the sharps into your container and make sure that it is securely sealed. Do not separate the needle from the syringe.
- Be sure the container is labeled with the words “**bio-hazard,**” “**infectious waste,**” “**sharps,**” or with the bio-hazard emblem.
- You may also label detergent bottles with the words “**DO NOT RECYCLE**” so that they are not accidentally included with recyclables.



DO NOT USE:

coffee or other steel cans; glass bottles or jars; aluminum cans; plastic tubs, buckets, milk jugs, soda bottles or bags.

DELIVERING TO A COLLECTION STATION

When the container is *three-quarters* full, sealed, and labeled, take it to any of the registered sharps collection locations in Portage County that are listed on the opposite side of this brochure.

Please call the collection location **directly** to confirm their hours and procedures.

Take your sharps container directly to the pharmacy's checkout for their instructions on where to place the container for safe collection and disposal.

Pharmacies **will not accept** sharps delivered in unacceptable or unlabeled containers.