

FAQs Sharps collections

Why can I no longer take my full sharps box back to the pharmacy?

The NHS no longer provide this service. The responsibility for the collection of sharps boxes has been passed to local councils. Ipswich Borough Council provide a collection from your home, Monday-Friday between 07:30-12pm. One collection per person/per household in each quarter (rolling 13 weeks period). Up to 4 per year.

How can I arrange a collection?

A collection can be requested via the Ipswich Borough Council website.

www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/clinical-waste-collections

You will need to login and provide your full contact details. Once this is done your details will be saved securely for you to use for future transactions. You will be allocated a collection day when booking.

Bin collection days can be found at www.ipswich.gov.uk/bincollectiondays

Can I leave the box on the doorstep?

Yes, we do not require a signature for collection therefore please leave the yellow box outside for collection from 7.30am on your allocated collection date.

Will the council provide a replacement sharps box when collecting the full one?

A replacement sharps box is provided along with your prescribed medication by your pharmacy or health care team. **The council will not provide replacements.**

What if I miss the collection?

The collection driver will leave a yellow “missed collection” card at your home. There is an email address on the card for you to contact. We will need your email and/or phone number, so we can contact you to arrange another day for your collection to take place.

Can I put the sharps box in my wheelie bin?

Never place the sharps box or needles into any of your wheelie bins at home. Sharps need to have a special disposal treatment which is not part of your normal collection. If sharps are found in your wheelie bin the bin will not be collected until the box/sharps have been removed.