

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, four mornings a week Tuesday-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.

Collections take place on the same day as your usual bin collection day.

(Tuesday=North West; Wednesday=North East; Thursday=South East & Central; Friday=South West area of Ipswich).

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

Can I leave the box on the doorstep?

No, you will need to be home to sign when the collection takes place. If you have a secure location for your box you may ask us to use that if you are not able to be at home. You will need to include details of any special arrangements for the collection on the request form.

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.