

Needles and syringes on public land

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Discarded hypodermic needles and syringes are extremely dangerous and could cause injury or infection. If you find a needle or syringe on public land or Council premises then it should be reported immediately to the Council.

Please report any discarded needles or syringes immediately, our Council has staff who are trained to safely remove and dispose of discarded needles or syringes. Do not put yourself or others at risk:

- Do not handle the needle or syringe with your bare hands
- Keep the needle or syringe out of reach of children
- Do not put the needle or syringe in a dustbin, down a drain, down a toilet or in a litter bin

Immediately contact your doctor or nearest Accident and Emergency department for medical advice and treatment if you do suffer an injury from a discarded needle or syringe.

Reporting discarded needles and syringes during office hours

Report any needles or syringes discarded on public land or Council premises to:

- Email: wasteofficers@copeland.gov.uk [7]
- Telephone: 01946 598300.

We will ask you for the following information:

- Your contact details

- The exact location of the needle or syringe e.g. the name of the park, or nearest lamp post and street name

What to do if you find a needle outside normal office hours

All reports of discarded needles are treated as urgent and if reported between Monday and Friday, we will try to arrange collection the same day. We can only take reports of discarded needles during normal office hours. However if you find needles outside office hours that need removing urgently because they're a danger to children or vulnerable people, please do the following:

- Make sure you wear disposable gloves
- Use tweezers to pick them up
- Place the discarded needles in a glass bottle or jar
- Put in a safe place locked away
- Ask us to collect the bottle for disposal

Please note that we don't search houses or any other properties for needles or syringes.

Needles and Syringes on Private Land

On private ground it is the responsibility of the occupier or owner, including private houses and commercial properties to remove and dispose of discarded needles and syringes found on their property.

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Links

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