

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS - SHARPS BOX SURVEY

Timestamp	What geographic designation best describes your library service area?	What Oregon region best describes your location?	Where are sharps drop bins located at your library? (Mark all that apply)	Who mostly performs maintenance (Inspection, emptying, repairs) of the sharps bins?	After installing sharps bins for public use, did you see an increase or decrease of medical waste hazards (littering, attempted flushing, or other unsafe disposal of syringes) at your facility?	For those with sharps bins available, have you experienced an increase or decrease of usage of them over the last 3-5 years at your facility?	Based on experience with sharps bins at your library, are you inclined to discourage or recommend that a library implement the service?	Please share any NEGATIVE impacts or problems your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)	Please share any POSITIVE impacts or success stories your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)	What advice do you have for a library considering installation of sharps bins (Optional)?
12/06/23	Frontier	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/06/23	Frontier	Eastern	Indoor restrooms	depends on the location, one is county, one is city and one is library staff.	No change	Same usage	5	One location lost the key and the County had to remove the box and replace it.	Do it!	
12/07/23	Frontier	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5			
11/30/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	Indoor restrooms	Library staff	Decrease	Same usage	3	Finding a place to dispose of the bins has been an issue for my library.	People use them which has decreased the number of syringes/sharps found in chairs, thrown into wastebaskets uncapped, and other places which presented a hazard to staff and patrons	Make sure you know where you are going to dispose of the containers! Our landscaping crew noted that they find needles in our landscaping and that it's hard to keep the crew safe. I don't know if a sharps bin outside would help, but maybe? I'd love to hear what you learn from other libraries.
11/30/23	Rural	Coastal	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Rural	Portland / Multnomah County	Indoor restrooms	City Public Works department	No change	Not applicable	5	n/a	Our police department, county health department, and non-profit partner organizations have all expressed their support and, in some cases, gratitude. There are only two or three public buildings in the city that have them.	Get buy-in from your city [sic] safety officer and police department.
11/30/23	Rural	Coastal	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Rural	Coastal	Mobile. It is mainly used by our afterschool program staff and brought to the park and other locations where sharps may be discovered in spaces we use for programs.	Library staff / contractors	Not applicable	Increase	3	We have not added permanent bins in our facility mainly because of concerns about quantity and our ability to service them.	It gives us the flexibility to confidently run programs in outdoor spaces like parks.	Make sure there is a training and safety plan in place.
11/30/23	Rural	Southern	Indoor restrooms, Outdoor drop box	Partner agency	No change	Same usage	4		Indoor sharps containers used by folks who have diabetes.	
12/07/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
11/30/23	Rural	Coastal	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	Indoor restrooms	Library staff	Decrease	Decrease	4	The plastic flaps often break.		Know where your disposal sites are. I would think twice about outdoor containers. Indoors provides a discreet disposal option. Outdoor looks like an invitation to use on the grounds.
12/05/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	Indoor restrooms	Library staff / contractors	Decrease	Unsure	5		In the past, sharps were occasionally found in our parking lot or in the bathroom stalls. This has not happened since installing the sharps containers in the bathrooms.	Get a locking wall mounted sharps container and don't worry about "why" someone needs to dispose of sharps. We're not here to regulate whether it's for "legitimate" medical use.
12/06/23	Rural	Coastal	staff restroom	Library staff / contractors	No change	Same usage	4			
11/30/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	Had them at my previous library, only negative response was the perception from people that thought they were only for drug users.	Our janitor LOVED them because they felt safer emptying the trash bins.	Have them available in each bathroom, including staff and family.
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	3			
12/08/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	Indoor restrooms	Partner agency	Unsure	Unsure	5	We had a bin torn off of the wall and all of its contents dumped on the changing table in the handicap stall. There were used needles and even small, broken needle points all over the area and we had a hole in our wall where the bin was removed from.	Simple. We have one and now the community has access to at least one of them.	Personally, I'd replace it when it's filled half way because otherwise there's the temptation to take a needle from out of the box which of course requires one to tear it from the wall and then proceed to dump a couple dozen syringes on an infant's diaper changing table.
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		We do not have them but have had someone call in to enquire if we offer them.		

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS - SHARPS BOX SURVEY

Timestamp	What geographic designation best describes your library service area?	What Oregon region best describes your location?	Where are sharps drop bins located at your library? (Mark all that apply)	Who mostly performs maintenance (Inspection, emptying, repairs) of the sharps bins?	After installing sharps bins for public use, did you see an increase or decrease of medical waste hazards (littering, attempted flushing, or other unsafe disposal of syringes) at your facility?	For those with sharps bins available, have you experienced an increase or decrease of usage of them over the last 3-5 years at your facility?	Based on experience with sharps bins at your library, are you inclined to discourage or recommend that a library implement the service?	Please share any NEGATIVE impacts or problems your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)	Please share any POSITIVE impacts or success stories your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)	What advice do you have for a library considering installation of sharps bins (Optional)?
12/07/23	Rural	Eastern	We are a community college library. There are sharps bins in several restrooms on campus, but none are the responsibility of the library.	College maintenance staff	Unsure	Unsure	3			
12/07/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	3	NA	NA	Do it
11/30/23	Rural	Eastern	Indoor restrooms	City Maintenance Staff	Decrease	Same usage	5			
12/01/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		n/a	n/a	n/a
12/01/23	Rural	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/06/23	Rural	Eastern	Indoor restrooms	Partner agency	No change	Unsure	3	I'll be honest, I personally haven't really noticed any difference with them installed. I'm not against them or anything but no real change as far as I have seen, good or bad.	See above.	Don't tell anyone you don't have to. People will make something out of anything these days.
11/30/23	Rural	Willamette Valley	Three- all indoor in staff spaces so we can dispose of items as needed.	Partner agency	Not applicable	Not applicable	3			I think it's a must for staff to have access to, but I don't have the experience of having sharps containers available to the public in my library.
12/01/23	Suburban	Portland / Multnomah County	We have none	While we do not have a sharps container at our location, the city has other buildings with containers. The City uses contractors.	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/08/23	Suburban	Portland / Multnomah County	Indoor restrooms	City Facilities staff	Decrease	Unsure	5	We experienced no negative impacts, only positive	There is a safe place to dispose of items now vs. a higher likelihood of finding them disposed of in an unsafe manner if there is not a sharps container available; the containers are used by diabetic residents all the time.	It's a best practice for public buildings to have sharps bins. Offering them did not lead to increased rates of drug users in our building, it just created a safe way for all types of folks including diabetics to safely dispose of medical waste items.
11/30/23	Suburban	Coastal	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		We don't have them. We were going to, and had a very large outcry from the community. As we were already dealing with a couple of other heated controversies, the board advised me not to pursue getting them. I wasn't thrilled about that, but I accepted it.		
11/30/23	Suburban	Willamette Valley	Indoor restrooms	Partner agency	No change	Unsure	5			
11/30/23	Suburban	Willamette Valley	Staff area with our spill kits	Library staff / contractors	Not applicable	Not applicable	3			Our issues against putting them in our restrooms were negative public perception and not really having a good outlet or even idea of how to dispose of them. Also, cost of purchasing, installing containers.
11/30/23	Suburban	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
11/30/23	Suburban	Portland / Multnomah County	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/01/23	Suburban	Portland / Multnomah County	Only behind the desk for staff use	Library staff / contractors	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	None - ours aren't available to the public	We do partner with the health dept to have a needle exchange near the library weekly	
12/06/23	Suburban	Portland / Multnomah County	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/07/23	Unsure	Eastern	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable				
12/08/23	Unsure	Mt Hood & Columbia River Gorge	We have none	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	None	None	
11/30/23	Urban	Willamette Valley	Indoor restrooms	Library staff / contractors	Unsure	Same usage	5	We have had a couple of incidents where people have tried to take out syringes which have led us to replace broken containers. We also had one incident where a patron dropped off a box of syringes at the customer service counter and asked staff to dispose of them for him.	It's positive from a safety standpoint that we provide them. It's overall a much safer environment for patrons and staff when we provide an appropriate place for sharps disposal, especially when the alternative could mean finding a needle in a chair with their rear end or in the stacks with a finger.	It provides a safe, welcome environment and the benefits outweigh the consequences. It also provides a safe place for people to administer medicine as well.