

Safer injecting means:

Never sharing: Don't share your needles, water, mix, cookers, filters, or tourniquets.

Keeping it sterile: Swab your fingers, and the injection site before injecting.

Safe disposal: Always recap your needle, place it in a hard walled container, and return it to your local needle exchange.



Exchange Works

Needle Exchange Program



Fixed Sites

Acton

372 Queen Street
Tuesday • 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Burlington

3350 Fairview Street
Monday – Friday • 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Georgetown

280 Guelph Street, Unit 76
Thursday • 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Milton

217 Main Street, Suite 13, 2nd Floor
Wednesday • 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Oakville

232 South Service Road East, Unit B
Monday – Thursday • 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

All services are free
and confidential

Exchange Works

Needle Exchange Program

Halton's needle exchange program *Exchange Works* will:

- exchange used needles for new clean needles
- supply information and condoms
- provide referrals to drug and alcohol treatment centres

Exchange Works is operated by Halton Region's Health Department.

Our Goal

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne illnesses, such as Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C amongst intravenous drug and steroid injection users.

Services include:

- Needle exchange
- Alcohol swabs & sterile water
- Cookers, tourniquets, filters
- Safer crack use kits
- Steroid injection equipment
- Condoms & lube
- Hepatitis A & B vaccinations
- HIV testing
- STD testing
- Information on safer injection
- HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis education
- Counselling & treatment referrals

Needle Exchange Programs Help

- Needle exchange programs are helpful in modifying many risk related practices of injection drug users (for example reusing and sharing needles).
- The recovery of needles helps control the unsafe disposal of needles in the community (for example playgrounds, washrooms) and reduces the risk of blood-borne infections.
- Research shows that needle exchange programs are most effective in areas where there is a low incidence of drug use and the spread of disease is relatively low.

Just The Facts

- In 1996, there were approximately 690 injection drug users in Halton region.
- In 1996, 47% of new HIV infections in Canada were amongst injection drug users.
- Over 100 needle exchange programs exist in Canada. Local needle exchange programs include *The Works* in Toronto, *Peel Works* in Peel Region and *The Van* in Hamilton-Wentworth.

Mobile Outreach Services

Hours

Tuesday – Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Call: 905-330-3305

In North Halton call: 905-702-4200



Helpful Tips

Injecting is the most complicated and risky way to do drugs. Snorting, smoking or swallowing drugs are all safer than injecting.

Aseptic Injection is a way of injecting that reduces the risk of getting an infection from injecting. It helps to avoid becoming infected with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV.

- The basic idea is that no blood gets transmitted from one person to the next.
- Using a clean syringe is probably not enough to avoid hepatitis, as it can be spread by very small amounts of blood.
- Do not share syringes, water, cookers, filters, swabs, or tourniquets.