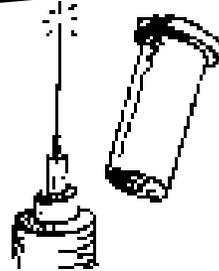


*The*  
**POINT**



*is the  
point!*

*Turn 'em back in with care.*



Public Health  
Seattle & King County

HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

**Exposed points are really dangerous. So are broken-off points.** They are hard to see and can easily get lost in clothes, carpets, couches, wherever.

***To keep everybody safer, here are some suggestions:***

- ✓ Recap your rig after you use it. Please **DO NOT** break off the point to exchange your rig.
- ✓ When you exchange, make sure you turn in all the parts – barrel, plunger *and points*. Each part can carry HIV, Hepatitis, and other germs.
- ✓ If you exchange for other people, ask them to recap their own rigs.
- ✓ Tape or rubber-band used rigs in bundles of 5 or 10.
- ✓ Carry used rigs in a hard container. A box made of metal is best, like a cookie tin. Metal is safer than

using paper or plastic bags. If you can't find something metal, try a hard plastic jar. One with a wide mouth, like a peanut butter jar, will let you get them out easily.

- ✓ If you notice rigs with exposed points, don't try to break them off – just pick them up very carefully (with tweezers, a roach clip, or tape) to avoid getting stuck.

**Also:** If the point does get broken off, pull the plunger out of the barrel, carefully pick up the point, put it in the barrel, then replace the plunger.

***SOME IMPORTANT NOTES:***

- ◆ ***HIV can live a long time in a used rig. Hepatitis B and Hep C can live even longer – for weeks or months. Needle sticks can transmit hepatitis more easily than HIV.***
- ◆ ***It is always a good idea to wash your hands after handling dirty rigs.***
- ◆ ***The Needle Exchange DOES NOT recycle your used syringes! Every syringe we give out is brand new. ALL the used syringes you turn in are burned.***

***Always use a BRAND NEW SYRINGE every time you inject or divide drugs!***



***NEVER SHARE cookers, cottons, water or water bottles with anybody!***