



Safety Rules: Collection of Discarded Syringes and Sharps

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1

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Purpose

This document details the safe collection of discarded syringes or sharps

Scope

This document applies to all workers who come in contact with discarded syringes or sharps.

Information

Sharps include:

- Hypodermic needles
- Lancets (2 edged scalpel)
- Intra-venous lines
- Scalpel blades
- Broken glass
- Knives
- Any other sharp item which has the potential to break skin or mucous membranes.

Such injuries caused by sharps are commonly known as Needle Stick Injuries.

Rules

Workers may be required to pick up discarded syringes and therefore the following safe handling procedures must be followed:

1. PPE to be worn: Footwear enclosing the foot to ankle height with sturdy soles sturdy gloves that are puncture resistant.
2. Syringes should be collected with tongs.
3. Cuts and sores on hands must be covered with a waterproof dressing.
4. Only place discarded syringes in approved disposal containers (refer below).
5. Take the Sharps Container to the needle **NOT** the needle to the container.
6. Don't attempt to bend, break or recap needles.
7. Don't overfill Sharps Containers.
8. Do not forage for sharps – use tongs to uncover partially hidden sharps.
9. Full containers (after lid securely closed) are to be placed in your local drop off bins, contact your local council for locations.

Approved Containers for carrying used Sharps must be: -

- Puncture resistant, waterproof and leak proof.
- Designed so that the opening is wide enough to allow Sharps to be dropped into the container by a single hand operation.
- Designed so that the opening is small enough to prevent insertion of a person's hand.



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- Clearly labelled with black lettering on yellow background with the biohazard symbol printed on the container.
- Have a lid that can be securely sealed before disposal.

Transporting Syringes

- Sharps must be placed in containers that are securely sealed during transport. Used syringes must not be transported loose or in bags.
- Sharps containers with used syringes in them are to be conveyed in sedan boots, tray area of utes or twin cabs and behind special rear seat barriers of station wagons.
- Sharps should be transported the shortest practical route and removed from the vehicle at the earliest chance.