

SHARPS HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

Required PPE	Safety boots, Hand protection
Training	This SOP, PPE, Bloodborne pathogens
Hazards	Exposure to hazardous substances and blood-borne pathogens, lacerations

Sharps are items that can easily puncture the skin. Examples include needles, razor blades and broken glass. All sharps must be handled and disposed in a manner that prevents you and others from being injured. This SOP applies to sharps that have been used with potentially infectious materials (e.g. needles) and non-infectious sharps.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Do not try to replace cap on needle.
- Do not handle Sharps with bare hands. Use tongs or similar equipment.
- Always wear protective gloves.
- Pick up needle or sharp with extreme care using pliers or long-handled grippers. DO NOT pick up by the needlepoint.
- Hold needlepoint away from you.
- Place needles or other infectious sharps in an Infectious Sharps Container.
- Please non-infectious sharps in Non-Infectious Sharps (Broken Glass) Container
- Do not try to retrieve items from Sharps Containers.
- In the event of a Sharps injury seek medical attention immediately.
- Always consider the safety of the workers downstream who handle our waste! If it can harm you, it can harm them. Ensure all Sharps are properly handled, packaged and identified. For more information, follow this link Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia's Sharps awareness safety campaign: <https://www.dontbeaprnick.org/>

NOTE: All tools and equipment shall be used in accordance with provincial OH&S legislation, manufacturer's specifications and applicable CSA Standards.

PROCEDURE

Infectious Sharps Disposal

1. Ensure that appropriate sharps containers are available in the immediate work area and adhere to the following:
 - A. Must be labeled as “Sharps”
 - B. Must be labeled with a biohazard symbol
2. Containers must be rigid, leak and puncture proof, and sealable. A commercially available plastic container that cannot be easily opened after sealing must be used for sharps that are contaminated with potentially infectious human body fluids (blood-borne pathogens).
3. Sharps Containers are placed in high-use areas throughout the campus.
4. If you do not have access to a Sharps container and have an Infectious Sharps to dispose of, contact your Supervisor who has access to an Infectious Sharps container.
5. Contaminated sharps cannot be placed in the normal trash. Full Infectious Sharps containers shall be brought to the attention of your supervisor.
6. Supervisor will retrieve and secure full Sharps containers in a central location, until pick-up by an outside agency. Supervisor will replace full container with an empty one. See your Manager for more information on storage and to obtain a new container.



*Infectious Sharps
Container*

Non-Infectious Sharps Disposal

1. Non-infectious sharps such as broken glass may be placed in a rigid puncture-proof container and labeled “SHARPS – NON-INFECTIOUS” or “BROKEN GLASS” and disposed of in the normal waste stream. If you do not have access to a Sharps container and have a Non-Infectious Sharps to dispose of, contact your Supervisor who has access to a Non-Infectious Sharps container.



*Non-Infectious Sharps
Container*

NOTE: All tools and equipment shall be used in accordance with provincial OH&S legislation, manufacturer's specifications and applicable CSA Standards.