

Preventing Needlestick & Sharps Injuries



Knowing how to prevent needlestick and sharps injuries is an important practice for workplace safety and helps keep staff and community members safe.

This guide outlines how to recognize sharps-related risks and safely handle and dispose of sharps.

To help prevent needlestick and sharps injuries, follow these safety tips:

DO:

- Clean your hands often and thoroughly.
 - Take part in workplace safety and sharps handling training.
 - Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof bandage.
 - Wear puncture-resistant gloves when handling garbage, laundry, or unknown items.
 - Inspect areas before cleaning.
 - Place sharps in an approved, labelled, puncture-resistant container right away.
 - Refer to the Lakelands Public Health resource, [Safe Needle Pick-Up Fact Sheet](#), for detailed instructions on the safe handling and disposal of community sharps.
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DON'T

- Overfill sharps containers.
- Reach blindly into bags, bins, furniture or other hidden spaces.

For additional information on testing and follow-up care, please contact your local primary care or hospital.