

Proper Sharps Disposal

How to Avoid and Prevent Needlestick Injuries. Put Safety First.



What is a needlestick injury?

Needlestick injuries are cuts or wounds from needles that puncture the skin and happen commonly during the disposal of needles.

RISK: There's an estimated 850,000 needlestick injuries annually in the US, and risk of Hepatitis B infection is approximately 1.8%.

Which work practices can lead to needlestick injuries?

Research shows that needlestick injuries are often caused by one of these activities:

- ▶ Lack of disposal of used needles
- ▶ Re-capping of needles
- ▶ Transfer of blood between two containers



Proper Methods to Dispose of Sharps

According to OSHA, here are the top two ways for proper disposal:

- ▶ Place all sharps in a sharps disposal container **immediately** after use. This will reduce the risk of needle sticks, injuries, and cuts.
- ▶ When the sharps disposal container is about three-quarters (3/4) full, dispose of the container by following your company guidelines.

DO NOT reuse sharps disposal containers.