

Sharps Disposal Safety

Needle Disposal

Always dispose of needles and other sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container immediately after use.



Never Recap Needles

Do not recap needles for disposal - used needles are to be placed in a sharps disposal container without recapping. The recapping of needles presents injury to the user and should be completely avoided.

Why is recapping needles dangerous?

Injury is likely to occur when holding a needle in one hand and attempting to cover it with a small cap held in the other hand. Injury may result from the following scenarios:

- The needle could miss or pierce the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- A poorly fitting cap could slip off a recapped needle and stab the hand holding it.

How to protect yourself from needlestick injuries:

- Select, evaluate and use devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury such as safety glide needles.
- Never recap needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Rest uncapped needles in a centrifuge tube during procedures when not in use.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal containers.
- Report all needlestick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure you receive appropriate follow-up care.
- Follow safety guidelines for all sharps (razor blades, scalpels, slides, forceps).
- Promptly report filled sharps containers to Environmental Services (x2997, x2998).