

Safe Handling of Sharps

Sharps

Sharps include needles, syringes, razor blades, scalpels and other sharp objects that could cause an injury by puncturing or penetrating the skin.



Risks of Sharps Injury

Any needle or sharp instrument whether used or unused has the potential for exposure or injury.



Safety Guidelines for Working with Sharps

1. Employees and students need to receive proper instruction from their supervisor on the safe handling of sharps.
2. **DO NOT** uncap sharp objects until it is time to use them for the procedure.
3. **DO NOT** re-cap any needles/razors.
4. Keep the object pointed away from yourself and other people at all times.
5. Never bend a sharp object before disposal.
6. Carefully dispose of used sharps immediately after use in designated sharps container.
7. Never remove needle from syringe prior to disposal.
8. Sharps containers should be placed within arm's reach and as close to the procedure as possible.
9. Seal the container when it reaches fill line or it is three-quarters full using the closure mechanism and request waste pickup online.

What to do after a sharps injury?

- Wash affected area with soap and water for 15 minutes.
- Report incident to your supervisor as soon as possible.
- Go to Redfern Center for evaluation and treatment.
- In case of an emergency dial 911.



Facts

All sharps waste needs to be collected even uncontaminated sharps at Clemson University.

The sharps container should be puncture resistant and with a tight-fitting lid. **The Office of Research Safety** provides sharps containers for free upon request.

Submit the appropriate form to **Hazardous Materials Management** online to request sharps waste pick-up or free sharps container.

Sharps Disposal Request Links

Biological & Uncontaminated Sharps



<https://www.clemson.edu/research/safety/forms/biohazform.html>

Hazardous Waste Sharps



<https://www.clemson.edu/research/safety/forms/hazwaste-form.html>

Radioactive Materials Sharps



<https://www.clemson.edu/research/safety/forms/rad-pickup.html>