



Sharps Safety Program

Protect Facilities Management Housekeeping, yourself, and the entire WCU community by disposing of needles safely!

Safe needle disposal is easy and protects us all from accidental needle sticks and the risk of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis! Follow the DO's and DON'Ts for the safe disposal of needles and other sharps used at home, at work, or while traveling.

DO

- Immediately place used needles in a sharps disposal container.
- Sharps disposal containers should be made of heavy duty plastic, close securely with a puncture-proof lid, stay upright and stable, be leak-resistant, and properly labeled.
- Be prepared – carry a portable sharps disposable container with you. Approved containers are available at drug store locations and WCU's Health Services. Free containers may also be available from your doctor or medication supplier.
- If an approved container isn't available, use a household heavy-duty plastic container with a lid such as a laundry detergent container.
- Label the container "Sharps Biohazard"
- When the container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, secure the lid and seal it with duct tape.
- For a private residence, place the sealed container in the household trash, do not recycle!
- On campus, take the sealed and labeled container to Health Services in the Bird building.



DON'T

- Never throw away loose needles and other sharps in trash cans or recycling bins!
- Never flush needles or other sharps down the toilet!
- Never try to remove, bend, break, or recap needles used by another person!
- Never remove the needle without using an approved needle clipper device because the needle could fly out and injure someone else!
- Don't force the needle into the container and don't place your fingers inside!
- Don't completely fill the container, stop and seal when it is $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- If using a household container, don't use thin walled containers that can easily break or puncture such as milk containers, soda cans, glass containers, or water bottles!



Contact Health Services (828-227-7640) or the Safety and Risk Management Office (828-227-7443) for more information.