



SHARPS Needles

Put used sharps in approved container
within easy arms-length of use

When container is
 $\frac{3}{4}$ full, put the lid on
and place container
in **red biological**
waste bin or have
EHS pickup.



Approved Containers

Containers for contaminated sharps needles must be **puncture resistant** and **leakproof**. They must be **labeled or color-coded red** to warn everyone that the contents are hazardous. Containers must be **closable**, and they must be kept **upright** to keep the sharps and any liquids from spilling out.

Do not use a cardboard box or metal container for needles.
See Safety Coordinator for approved containers.

If **recapping** is necessary, use a **one-handed “scoop” technique**, using the needle itself to pick up the cap, and then push the cap against a hard surface to ensure a tight fit.

Use a blunt-tipped needle to avoid accidental self-puncture when puncturing is not required, for example, filling an NMR tube.

All needle sticks exposures must be reported immediately to Employee Occupational Health Services (505-272-8043).