Used SHARPS Needles

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

When container is ¾ full, put the lid on and place container in red biological waste bin.

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.

Contaminated sharps must never be broken. 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.

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

May 2024