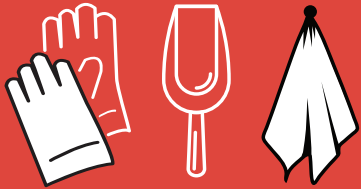


# Needles Are A Danger

- Always assume the needle is contaminated
- Do not injure yourself or others

## AVOID DIRECT CONTACT

Use hand barrier protection to pick up the needle (e.g. heavy gloves, scoop/shovel type tools, napkin etc.).



01

## PICK UP NEEDLE – TIP FACING AWAY

Pick up the needle holding the tip away from you and others.

- Do not separate syringe from needle
- Do not manipulate the needle in any manner
- Do not recap the needle
- Avoid excessive handling of the needle

02



03

## PLACE NEEDLE IN SEALED CONTAINER

Place needle in an empty, hard plastic container (e.g. water bottle, jug or similar container with lid).

- Avoid holding container near the top
- Seal (cap) container tightly and secure with tape
- Clearly label container "SHARPS"
- Do not place needles into the garbage

04



## TAKE THE CONTAINER TO PHARMACY

Please visit [healthsteward.ca](http://healthsteward.ca) to find participating pharmacies near you for safe disposal. Approved sharps containers are also available at these pharmacies.

**Do not place needles/containers in the garbage.**

**NOTE:** This procedure reduces the risk of an accidental needlestick injury which may be a source of infection. The information provided is meant for needles found in the community and is not intended to be applied to biomedical waste from healthcare facilities, laboratories, private homes or commercial businesses.

**NOTE:** Should an accidental needlestick injury occur, the injured person should go immediately to the hospital emergency department for assessment and to determine the need for further treatment.



**Environmental Help Line**  
**905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613**  
**durham.ca**



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-888-777-9613

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