

Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan – Appendix B: Sharps Container Fact Sheet



Using Sharps Containers:

A sharp is any object contaminated with blood, other potentially infectious materials or disease-causing organisms that is capable of cutting or penetrating skin or packaging materials.



Items Destined for Sharps Containers

Medical and dental devices:

- Needles
- Syringes (used or unused)
- Epi pens
- Lancets
- Dental wire

Other sharps Items contaminated with blood:

- Razor blades
- Box cutter blades
- Broken glass

Do Not Place in Sharps Containers

- Bandages
- Disposable gloves
- Paper towels
- Cotton balls
- Feminine hygiene products
- Regular trash
- Medications
- Mercury containing medical or dental devices
- Hazardous waste (chemicals)

Cleaning up Sharps:

1. Wear disposable gloves.
2. Bring Sharps container to the location of the sharp item instead of carrying the sharp item to the Sharps container.
3. Use tongs or a broom and dust pan to put the sharp item in the Sharps container. **Do not pick up a sharp with your hands.**

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Handling and Disposal of Sharps Containers:

- Keep Sharps container closed when not in use.
- Store Sharps container in an upright position and do not overfill.
- Replace a Sharps container that becomes cracked or damaged; it may no longer be leak proof.
- **Sharps containers cannot be placed in the regular trash.** Dispose of Sharps containers through authorized regulated medical waste disposal locations (see below).

Red Bag and Sharps Container Authorized Disposal Locations:

To dispose of Red Bags or Sharps Containers, coordinate with the department contact listed below at each campus/center. All Red Bags must be tied shut and cannot contain sharps, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, or regular trash. Only closed, FDA approved Sharps Containers can be taken for disposal; no sharps items are to be put into glass jars, plastic drink bottles, etc. Sharps Containers should not contain chemicals, pharmaceuticals, or regular trash.

Location	Contacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLIMB Health Professionals Rooms 102 and 105• Cascade Science and Medical Lab Technology Jackson Hall Room 222• Sylvania Dental HT Room 206• Sylvania Nursing HT Room 126• Sylvania Life Science HT Room 302A Lab Prep area• South East Sciences Student Commons 317E• Willow Creek Medical Assisting Room 304• Rock Creek Biology Building 7 Room 130	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bem Hanamoto, Coordinator, x6627• Spencer Corbin Lawson, IST IV, x5422;• Shauna Pratt, IST IV, x5674• Leslie Pullen-Romanio, Coordinator, x4757, or• Josette Beach, Director, x4235• Doris Rink, Instructor, x4059• Eileen Fitzpatrick, IST III, x4231 or• Jack Brosy, IST III, x4474• Steve Ballew, IST III, x6315• Virginia Chambers, Instructor, x2544• Melissa Duke, IST III, x7071

If a College location has no Red Bag or Sharps Container disposal service, contact Evelyn Prater, Environmental Health & Safety, at x2872 for assistance.