

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.

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	Contact Role
CLIMB Health Professionals	Health Gateways Coordinator
Cascade Life Science and Medical Lab Technology – Jackson Hall Prep Room	Instructional Support Tech IV; Medical Lab Tech Specialist
Vanport Dental	Dental Clinic Coordinator or Dental Program Director
Sylvania Nursing – HT Utility Room	Nursing Instructor or Instructional Support Tech IV
Sylvania Life Science – ST Prep Room	Instructional Support Tech III
Southeast Life Science – SCOM Prep Room	Instructional Support Tech III
Willow Creek Medical Assisting	Medical Assisting Instructor
Rock Creek Biology – Bldg 7 Prep Room	Instructional Support Tech IV

If a College location has no red bags or sharps container disposal service, contact Environmental Health & Safety at x2872 for assistance.