

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

RESEARCH SAFETY

NEEDLE SAFETY IN THE LAB



Preventing Needle-Related Injuries

Needles are essential tools in research, but they also pose serious risks. Follow these guidelines to protect yourself, your colleagues and others.

General Handling Guidelines:

- Use blunt-tip needles whenever possible.
- Plan ahead and organize your workspace before starting.
- Always keep your hands behind the needle tip.
- Do not recap needles, unless it is absolutely required for the procedure.
- Never bend, shear or break a needle before disposal.

Disposal of Needles:

- Use sturdy, puncture resistant sharps containers
- Sharps containers with biohazard or human fluid/tissue contaminated needles must be clearly labeled with the biohazard symbol and autoclaved.

- Sharps container with chemically contaminated needles must be labeled with a hazardous waste disposal label. Remove or deface the biohazard label if using biohazard sharps containers.
- Do not overfill. Replace sharps containers when they are 3/4 full.

In the Case of a Needle Injury:

- Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Immediately notify your PI or supervisor and submit a First Report of Injury (FROI).
- Seek medical attention if necessary.



Administrative Operations

Research Safety

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