

UMBC SAFETY ALERT



Proper disposal of sharps devices not only protects yourself but also others in the campus community. Knowing how to properly dispose and store sharps in the workplace can reduce occurrences of needlesticks and other sharps related incidents. Any area or laboratory that works with sharps devices is required to have the proper disposal containers. Sharps should **NEVER** be disposed of in the general trash, or any other waste stream besides a proper sharps container. Sharps should **NEVER** be left unprotected on the benchtop or other areas where a person might mistakenly come into contact with the device. Speak with your supervisor or lab manager about sharps safety precautions in your area before use.

WARNING

Needle stick injury can expose you to infectious diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV.
TO AVOID INJURY...



Do not force sharps into container



Do not put fingers inside container



Do not remove needle



Do not bend or break needle



Do not recap needle

What Are Sharps?

Needles
Auto Injectors
Razor blades
Broken glass
Scalpels
Scissors
Lancets

What To Do After A Sharps Injury

1. NOTIFY SUPERVISOR
2. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION
3. CONTACT UMBC ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & HEALTH (410) 455-2918 esh@umbc.edu

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE

DO NOT throw loose sharps in trash



DO NOT put sharps in recycling



DO NOT flush sharps down toilet



DO NOT overfill containers



Use a Sharps Container

- 1 Visually check sharps container for hazards before handling. Read all labels.

MAKE SURE container is not overfilled or damaged.

CHECK that container is large enough to fit your sharp.



- 2 Put sharp in container immediately after use.



Contact UMBC Environmental Safety and Health at (410) 455-2918 or esh@umbc.edu for questions concerning sharps use and disposal