

Purpose of this document

To outline the procedure for handling sharps using the provided sharps container to keep you and your community safe during beach clean-ups and litter surveys.

What is a medical sharp?

'Medical sharps' is a term for medical devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. Medical sharps include used needles, lancets, catheters, auto injectors and other sharp items that are dangerous if they aren't disposed of safely.

They can injure people and may contain biohazards that spread infections that cause serious health conditions.



Examples of medical sharps.



Warning!

Needle stick injuries can expose you to infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV.



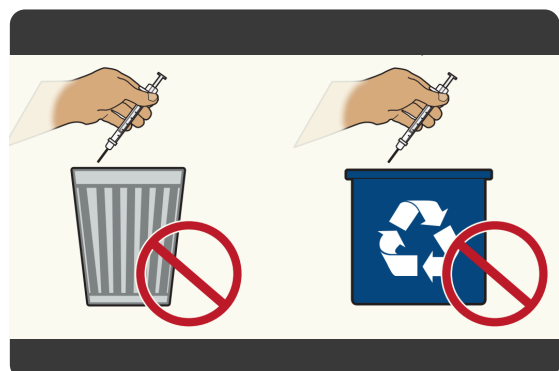
Keep yourself safe

- Ensure you are wearing reusable gloves and closed toed shoes before handling any sharps.
- 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.



Keep your community safe

- Do not throw loose sharps in trash.
- Do not put sharps in recycling bin.
- Do not flush sharps down toilet.
- Keep out of reach of children.



How to use a sharps container

1

Ensure you are wearing reusable gloves before handling any sharps. Check sharps container is:

- large enough to fit your sharp.
- is not damaged or overflowing.

2

Carefully put sharp in sharps container, sharp end first.

Stop using sharps container when it is $\frac{2}{3}$ full or as indicated on the label.

3

Securely close the sharps container using the lid provided.



How to discard a sharps container

1

Close the sharps container as instructed on the label.

2

Wash or sanitize your hands after handling sharps.

3

Contact your Sustainable Coastlines representative for a replacement container and instructions about proper disposal processes.

