

Handling and Disposal of Sharps for Cleaning and Ground Staff



Please don't let distractions, stress or time pressures get under your skin.



General Safety Tips

- Managers/supervisors should always conduct a risk assessment to identify and control any hazards associated with handling sharps in the particular situation.
- Workers must follow safe work practices which include wearing P.P.E

Control the Risks

By following these guidelines for the safe handling of "Sharps" in the workplace, the risk of contracting infectious diseases will be minimised in the workplace. Always conduct a risk assessment before any controls are implemented and a risk assessment after the controls are implemented to ensure the risk has been reduced.

Handling and Disposal of Sharps

For safe removal of hypodermic needles/syringes the following precautions should be followed:

- Do not place hands or fingers into areas or objects where sharps may be concealed, such as into garbage bags, down between lounge chair cushions, behind toilet cisterns or drains without visibly checking first.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) at all times when handling any type of sharp object which may be contaminated with blood or body products. Always wash hands after removing gloves.
- Do not recap, bend or break discarded sharps.
- To pick up the needle or syringe, place a sharps container beside the "Sharp" that requires collecting and pick up the item by using tongs or pliers and place in the container. Do not hold the container with your free hand.

Workers should not:

- manually compress garbage bags
- hold rubbish bags close to their body
- hold the base of rubbish bags
- place hands/fingers into concealed areas
- collect "sharps" with hands.