

# Spotlight On Safety

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## Needle & Syringe Safety

Needles and syringes should be properly handled to prevent potential needle stick injury, contamination, or infection. Adhere to the following safety guidelines to prevent injuries and illness.

### *Eliminate or substitute sharps*

- Eliminate sharps from procedure whenever possible.
- Use blunt tip needles instead of sharp needles.
- Use safety-engineered sharps such as protective sheath or retractable needle syringes.



### *Avoid altering or modifying needles*

- Do not break or shear needle from the syringe hub.
- Do not bend needles.
- Do not remove needle from disposable syringe.

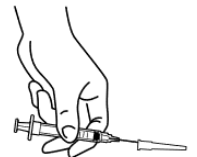


### *Avoid recapping*

- Do **NOT** recap needles for disposal and whenever possible during procedures.
- If recapping is required for a procedure, use a recapping device or the one-hand scoop method. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle/syringe!



Recapping device



One-hand scoop

### *Needle and syringe disposal instructions*

- Place sharps containers close to where needles and syringes are used.
- Dispose in puncture-resistant containers (red or black sharps container provided by EH&S).
- Place needle and syringe without cap directly into the sharps container.
- Do not reach inside sharps containers.
- Never walk around room with an uncapped needle or syringe.
- Don't leave uncapped needles or syringes on counters or tables.
- Close/seal and dispose of containers once it reaches the labeled fill line. Do not overfill containers.



Visit <https://ehs.ucr.edu> for additional information or call EH&S at (951) 827-5528 if you have any questions.