

# Spotlight On Safety

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## Needle & Syringe Safety

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

### *Removing Syringe from Case*

- Grasp casing top with one hand and the case with the other hand; push the top inward to the case and twist in opposite directions or hold the case perpendicular with the top facing downward and with one brisk tap hit the top of the case against a counter top, then twist off the cap
- Slip the syringe out of the case and hold by the barrel (don't touch the open end where the needle will be attached)

### *Removing a Needle from Sterile Plastic Packaging*

- Remove cap carefully (it is uneven and may be sealed against a plastic needle hub)
- Hold small hub end of the plastic packaging with one hand and the larger end with the other hand, then rotate the two pieces in opposite directions to break seal
- Remove smaller plastic cap from the hub end of the needle, leaving the needle (sharp end) covered and protected

### *Attachment of Needle to Syringe*

- Holding the capped needle in one hand and syringe in the other, insert the small end of the syringe into the hub of the needle
- Rotate syringe slightly as you push it into the hub of the needle (helps break cap seal)

### *Needle Cap Removal*

- Hold syringe with one hand, grasp, and push needle cap toward syringe with other hand while rotating the cap slightly (1/4 turn) to break the seal (don't try to pull the cap off the needle to prevent sticking yourself when the cap suddenly comes off)
- Never leave an uncovered needle on the counter (always rest needle in its cap while waiting to use assembled needle and syringe)

### *Needle and Syringe Disposal Instructions*

- Dispose in puncture-resistant containers (red sharps container)
- A sharps container should be placed close to where needles and syringes are used
- Don't break or shear needle shaft from the hub (may aerosolize the material), bend needle or remove needle from disposable syringe
- Place needle and syringe without cap, directly into a disposable sharps container
- Don't walk around room with an uncapped needle or syringe with needle
- DO NOT recap needles.

Visit [www.ehs.ucr.edu](http://www.ehs.ucr.edu) for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.