



# Sharps Disposal Guide

## - Best Practice

Sharps disposal is a critical aspect of healthcare waste management, essential for protecting healthcare workers, patients, and the environment from injuries and contamination. This guide provides best practices to ensure that sharps are disposed of safely and sustainably in your facility.

### Use Approved Sharps Containers



Ensure you are using containers specifically designed for sharps disposal. These should be puncture-resistant, leak-proof, and approved for use in healthcare settings.

Where possible, use containers made from recycled materials, such as Mun's 75% recycled plastic sharps containers, to reduce environmental impact.

### Placement and Accessibility

Position sharps containers close to areas where sharps are commonly used, such as in patient rooms, treatment areas, and laboratories.

Ensure containers are within easy reach for healthcare professionals, reducing the likelihood of improper disposal due to inconvenience.



### Follow Proper Disposal Techniques

1) **Dispose Immediately:** Place used sharps directly into a sharps container immediately after use. Never leave sharps unattended on surfaces.

2) **Fill to the Marked Line:** Do not overfill sharps containers. Fill them only to the marked "fill line" to prevent the risk of injury.



3) **Secure the Lid:** Ensure the lid is tightly secured once the container reaches capacity, and do not attempt to reopen it.

### Train Healthcare Staff Regularly



Conduct regular training sessions for all staff on proper sharps disposal procedures and the importance of following safety protocols.

Keep your team informed about changes to local or national waste management regulations, and how they impact sharps disposal.

### Minimise Waste and Environmental Impact

Partner with a licensed sharps disposal service to ensure the safe collection, transport, and disposal of full containers.

When possible, choose sharps containers made from recycled materials or from companies that prioritise sustainable practices.

Encourage staff to use eco-friendly containers and tools that reduce overall plastic waste in the healthcare environment.



### Maintain Compliance with Regulations



Ensure your facility adheres to local and federal regulations regarding sharps disposal. These regulations often specify container standards, labeling requirements, and disposal methods.

Keep records of your facility's sharps disposal activities, including the type and quantity of waste generated and disposed of, as required by law.

### Safety Considerations for Replacing Full Containers

Always wear gloves and any other necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling sharps containers.

Once filled, ensure that containers are sealed and appropriately labeled before removing them for disposal.

Use designated sharps disposal areas or facilities for transporting and storing full containers until they can be collected.

