



Safety Talk



July 2020

Sharps Safety

All types of sharps are a serious concern on how they are handled and disposed of in the workplace.

Sharps is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin.

Examples of sharps include:

- Needles – hollow needles used to inject drugs (medication) under the skin.
- Syringes – devices used to inject medication into or withdraw fluid from the body.
- Glass – broken glass that could cut the skin.

If not adequately trained on how to safely handle or dispose of a sharp it could become a serious health risk taken by the untrained person. All sharps, such as needles and syringes should be treated as potential infectious materials with additional safety precautions in place to ensure everyone's safety. If you don't have the training or tools to safely handle or dispose of a sharp, it is not recommended that you do so...protect the sharp and call your local Public Health Organization so that they can make arrangements to safely handle and dispose of the sharp.

Training on handling and disposing of sharps is highly recommended to ensure workers perform this task with the outmost safety. Workplaces should have sharp containers within their building to provide safe means of disposing of needles and syringes by workers, clients or the general public.

Sharp containers can be brought to various locations within your region. The locations within the Sudbury area are as follows:

Public Health Sudbury & Districts – 705.522.9200 - Outdoor drop-off kiosk, accessible at any time

Sudbury Action Centre for Youth – 705.673.4396, ext. 208

The Point (Harm Reduction Supplies and Services) - 705.522.9200, ext. 778.

Toxic Taxi - 705.560.9019 for pick up

Household Hazardous Waste Depot - (705) 560-9019 for drop off

City of Greater Sudbury - 3-1-1 (if found on public property).

Please refer to your company's or organization's sharps policy on how to handle and dispose of different types of sharps.



Northern Safety Solutions Inc.

955 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury ON P3B 1P8

Toll Free: 1-866-524.1975

www.northersafetyolutions.com

"Working Safely for the Health of It"

**Workplace
Management**
Systems Inc.