



HSC Safety Tips No. (18)

1. Sharps **SHOULD** be disposed of in sharps containers immediately. They must **NEVER** be sheared or broken. Recapping, bending, or removing needles is **NOT** permissible.
2. Sharps containers **MUST** be puncture-resistant, and appropriately labeled and color-coded to warn everyone that the contents are hazardous. The sides and the bottom of the containers must be leakproof. In addition, they must be closable (i.e. have a lid, flap, door, or other means of closing the container), and they must be kept upright to keep the sharps and any liquids from spilling out of the container.
3. The containers **MUST** be replaced when they are $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Overfilling a sharps container increases the risk of needlesticks or cuts.
4. If there is a chance of leakage from the sharps container, the container **SHOULD** be placed in a secondary container that is closable, appropriately labeled and color-coded, and constructed to contain all contents and prevent leakage during handling, storage, transport, or shipping.
5. Broken glass must **NOT** be picked up by hand, but must be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a brush and dust pan, tongs, or forceps.

