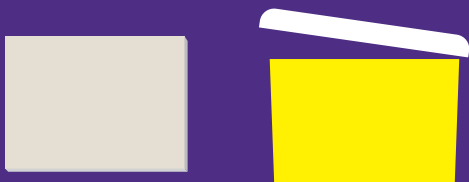


SAFE NEEDLE HANDLING

1. Prepare Sharps Container



Before using your sharps container, line it with the provided absorbent pad.

Keep your sharps container nearby with the lid securely applied to prevent spillage.

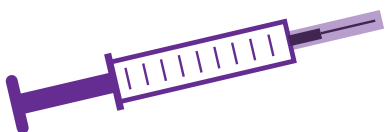


Yellow containers are for chemically contaminated sharps.



Red containers are for biologically contaminated sharps.

2. Handle Needle Safely



Keep your needle capped until you need it.



Secure organisms, flasks, and vials prior to uncapping your needle.

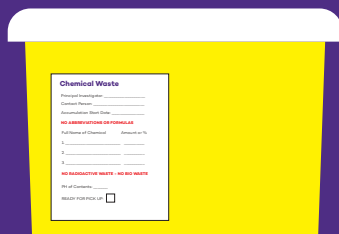


After using the needle, do not remove it from the syringe.

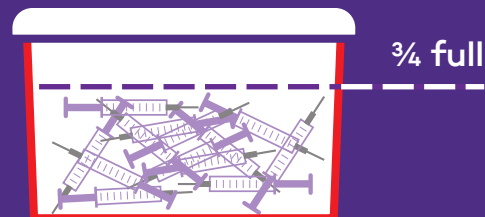
3. Dispose of Needle



Do not recap used needles. Dispose of them immediately in the proper sharps container.*



When disposing of chemically contaminated sharps, record chemical contaminants on a chemical waste label on the side of the container.



Dispose of your sharps container when it is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Do not overfill. Ensure both the lid and round opening on the lid are secured.

*If your procedure requires recapping, you must contact Research Safety for approval to recap.

Did you know:

- Contaminated needle sticks can inject substances into the body, potentially causing serious injuries.
- Needle sticks account for 10% of injuries at Northwestern.
- Breaking a used needle can aerosolize any chemical residue in the dead volume.
- The dead volume is the space in the needle tip that contains residual chemicals.
- Most needle injuries occur on the non-dominant hand.