



UH IBC: Needles and Medical Sharps Handling and Disposal Guidance

Guideline 1.0 Version 1.0

Effective Date 8/1/15, 6/5/20

Improper disposal of discarded needles, other sharps and medical (auto-injectors, diabetic supplies, lancets, syringes, etc.) pose a health risk to the public, custodial workers and waste workers. Discarded needles expose waste workers to needle stick injuries and bloodborne infections when containers break open inside refuse trucks and custodians risk injury if sharps break through plastic garbage bags.

- Call the UH Mānoa Department of Public Safety at (808) 956-6911 immediately for assistance when a needle or any of the medical sharps are found on the grounds and facilities of the Mānoa campus.
- Only personnel instructed on the proper handling and disposal of needles and medical sharps should pick-up and dispose of these items.

Needles and Medical Sharps Handling and Disposal Procedure

- Put on gloves and safety glasses.
- Use only remote handling tool (tongs, forceps, etc.) to lift needle or sharp
- **Do Not Recap. Bend or Cut Needle.**
- Using remote handling tool, transfer needle to the sharp's container or plastic soft drink container and secure with cap. (Red sharps container can be found in biological laboratories or use a plastic bottle container with sealable cap)
- Disinfect area with fresh household bleach solution (1:10 bleach/water solution) or other EPA registered disinfectant for no less than 10 minutes or manufacturer's instructions for other products.
- Wipe-up disinfectant solution with absorbent materials and dispose in the regular trash.
- Decontaminate remote handling tools and re-usable PPE and discard disposable PPE in regular trash.
- Re-apply disinfectant to ensure decontamination. Allow adequate contact time.
- Remove gloves and wash hands with soap and water.
- Call Biosafety Program, Office of Research Compliance at (808) 956-3197 (office) or 285-7619 (cellular) for further instructions.

Disposal reference is found in the UH Biological Materials Wastes Guidelines
<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/researchcompliance/guidance-documents/uh-bio-waste-guidelines>

Exposure to Blood and Other Potential Infectious Materials, go to your Department Exposure Control Plan or OSHA [Template](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_2-2_69_APPD.pdf)
https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_2-2_69_APPD.pdf: