

# Sharps Collection Protocols

## Step 1: Gather Materials



gloves



Puncture-proof  
sharp  
container



Litter pick up  
stick



## Step 2: Put on Gloves

- Gloves should always be worn when dealing with discarded sharps
- Gloves won't protect you from a prick; they are a barrier to protect you from getting Bloodborne illness. Do not touch the needle even with gloves on. Follow the steps below and use a tool (litter stick) to pick the needle up.



## Step 3: Prepare Your Container

- Place the puncture proof container on a flat surface close to the needle.
- Open the lid to prepare the container.
- Do not hold the container while inserting the needle.



## Step 4: Pick up the Needle

- Hold the needle far away from your body, and place into the container sharp end first.
- Use your tongs or litter pick to pick up the sharp/needle by the plunger or barrel, not the needle point.



## Step 5: Close the Container

- Place the cap back onto the puncture proof container and make sure the lid is locked.
- We don't want loose needles in our jobboxes or vehicles!



## Step 6: Clean up Hands

- Disinfect the tool you used with disinfectant solution
- Throw away disposable gloves
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water



## First Aid

If someone is pricked by a sharp while picking it up or while doing restoration activities:

1. Squeeze your skin around the wound to increase bleeding.
2. Wash the wound thoroughly with warm water and soap. Cover the wound.
3. IMMEDIATELY seek medical care at the closest hospital or urgent care facility or call 911.
4. The evaluation and follow-up should include:
  - Documentation of paths of exposure and circumstances
  - Collection and testing of blood to detect presence of HBV and HIV
  - Post exposure preventative treatment when medically necessary
  - Evaluation and reporting of any present illnesses
5. Notify Green Seattle Partnership staff.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What should I do if I don't want to pick up a needle?***

Everyone is welcome to continue using the City of Seattle Find-it Fix-it app (<https://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>). If a needle is located during a GSP event, please make sure to flag-off the area and notify participants to be cautious.

### ***Should we be reporting the number of needles we pick up?***

Yes, capturing the number of sharps is an important part of tracking the broader issue of needle use in parks. There are a couple options: use a hashmark system on the side of the container to track collection or completely fill the bin and we can estimate the total number.

### ***What should I do if my sharps container is full?***

Please contact your GSP staff person to request pick up of the sharps container from your jobbox.

### ***Who can do the sharp collection during the event?***

Only Forest Stewards and partner organization staff trained in the Sharps Collection Protocol should be picking up sharps at a Green Seattle Partnership restoration site.

### ***Where can I learn more?***

Check out: <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/safe-and-clean-seattle/sharps-collection> or search "SPU sharps program".