

What should I do if I find a discarded needle or pipe?

Children...

Should never touch a discarded needle or pipe. If they find one, they should leave it where it is and call an adult to help.

Adults...

If you have equipment to handle it safely, you can pick it up so that no one gets injured or poked. Follow these five steps to learn more.

Steps to safely dispose of needle or pipe:



- Find a hard plastic container with a secure lid (e.g., a laundry soap container, plastic pop bottle, etc.). Do not use glass or thin plastic containers.
- Remove the lid and place the container on the ground or on a sturdy surface close by.
- Do **NOT** break, bend or try to recap the needle. This could increase your risk of being poked.



- Use gloves (latex, rubber or leather) or tongs when picking up a needle or pipe.
- Pick up the needle by the center of the barrel.
- Point the sharp end of the needle down and away from you.



- Do **NOT** hold the container in your hand. Ensure the container is on a solid and stable surface.
- Put the needle in the container sharp end first.
- Secure the lid.



- Dispose of the container at your local Public Health Unit, yellow Community Drop-Off location, or Harm Reduction site.
- You can also contact your local pharmacy and ask if they have a drop off to dispose of used sharps.



- Wash your hands with soap and water after removing your gloves.

What to do if poked or scratched?

- Do not panic. The risk of infection is low. There are no reports of HIV infection following a needle stick injury in the community.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Do not squeeze the affected area.
- Go to your local emergency department.

Not comfortable picking up the needle or have questions?

Call your local Public Health Office to find out about collection options. Search keywords Public Health, Harm Reduction or Primary Health Care .



<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/your-health/conditions-diseases-services/harm-reduction>