

Safety Tips from the WorkSafe People

Sharps Disposal Containers

Four Major Criteria for a Sharps Disposal Container

- Functionality
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Accommodation

Functionality

- Container should remain fully functional during entire usage
 - Durable — resistant to chemical or liquid permeation or degradation
 - Closure mechanisms — designed to minimize exposure to contents
 - Stability — stable when placed on a horizontal surface
 - Size and shape — sufficient size to accommodate the largest sharp used at the workstation it serves
 - Leak-resistant on sides and bottom
 - Puncture-resistant until final disposal
 - Have adequate volume and safe access to the disposal inlet
 - Container mounting brackets should be rugged and easy to service and decontaminate

Accessibility

- Container should be conveniently placed within the workplace
- Installation height:
 - Place within arm's reach and below eye level at use point
 - Calculate wall-mounted container to ensure it is within an ergonomically acceptable range

Visibility

- Plainly visible within the workplace
- Workers should be able to see the volume of disposed sharps within the container
- The container should display the proper warning labels and color-coding

Accommodation

- Place containers in locations that are convenient for the user
- Select locations that take into account ease of storage and simplicity of operation