

What to do if you find a discarded needle and syringe



1. Do not be alarmed
2. Get a container with a well-secured lid, preferably screw top. Rigid plastic containers with lids are best. Avoid using glass, which can shatter, or aluminium cans.
3. Bring the container to the needle and syringe
4. Pick up the used needle and syringe by the blunt end, away from the point. Do not touch the sharp point.
5. Do not try to put the plastic protective cover back on a needle if it has fallen off.
6. Put the needle and syringe, point first, into the container. More than one can be placed in the container, but do not over fill. Do not carry the needle and syringe unless it is in a suitable sealed container.
7. Make sure the container is tightly sealed.
8. Put the sealed container in a domestic rubbish bin (not the recyclable bin). Do not put needles and syringes down toilets or drains.



What to do if you injure yourself with a discarded needle

- Wash the area gently with soap and water as soon as possible.
- Apply antiseptic if available and a clean dressing.
- Obtain immediate medical advice from your local doctor or hospital emergency department.

Remember

Do not panic, take reasonable care and follow the above steps.

Let children know never to pick up a needle, but to tell an adult if they find one.

Immunisation

Hepatitis B vaccination will protect you from hepatitis B if you injure yourself with a needle. See your doctor or community nurse for further information.

Problem areas

If you are regularly finding needles and syringes in a particular area, please contact your local government Environmental Health Officer.

Further information

Visit the Department of Health website www.population.health.wa.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Department of Health is not responsible for any harm incurred by following the information enclosed and does not condone the use of drugs.