

Safe needle, syringe and sharps handling and disposal

Needles, syringes or other sharps, such as razor blades and broken glass can be found in the community. They can be found anywhere, private or public properties, roads, or commercial properties. These items can present a serious risk of infection to the general public if they are not handled and disposed of in a safe manner.

What should I do if I find a needle, syringe or other sharp on my property?

When a needle or other sharp is found on private property, the property owner will need to remove and dispose of the sharp item. When picking up and disposing of a needle, syringe or sharp item follow the procedure below:

1. Obtain a puncture-resistant container (e.g., plastic container with lid) and place it on a stable surface. Avoid using glass container as it can break easily.
2. Wear heavy duty gloves and pick up the item using a pair of tongs, pliers, tweezers, or thick cloth.
3. Hold the item by the body of the object, not the tip.
4. Keep the tip or sharp edge away from you and place it in the container.
5. Securely seal the container and mark it with the word "SHARPS".
6. Wash your hands with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand rub if hands are not visibly soiled.
7. **DO NOT** place container in the municipal garbage.
8. Call your local public waste depot for proper disposal.

If a needle, syringe or sharp is found on public property including roads notify the appropriate municipality or Region for pickup and disposal. For further information and contact numbers call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

If a needle, syringe or sharp is found on a commercial property notify the property owner or property management company for pickup and disposal.

What should I do if I accidentally got injured by a needle or sharp?

1. Thoroughly clean the wound with soap and water as soon as possible; the wound should not be squeezed to induce bleeding.
2. **Seek immediate medical attention** by visiting the closest Emergency Department.

1-800-361-5653
TTY: **1-866-252-9933**



York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services

Public Health

www.york.ca

