

IF YOU FIND A NEEDLE

Follow the steps below for safe pick-up and disposal:

- **DO NOT** try to put the cap back on the needle.
- Wear garden, work, or medical gloves (If available).
- Get an empty non-breakable hard-sided container that needles can't poke through (e.g. liquid laundry detergent, bleach container, empty pop bottle, a small coffee can). The container must have a lid and be put on a flat surface.
- Use tweezers, pliers, or tongs to pick up by the end that is not the sharp end. Keep away from your body.
- Place the needle, sharp end first, into a hard container.
- Fill a container no more than 3/4 full. If a container is too full, the needles may poke through the side.
- Put the container lid on tightly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Store the container in a safe place away from children until you can dispose of it safely at the clinic or needle drop box in your community.
Call 306-655-4444 for needle drop box locations.

Do not place needles in the garbage or recycling.

Educate children about finding needles

Ensure children understand they should never pick up needles. If they find a discarded needle, they should notify an adult immediately.

What should you do if you get poked by a needle?

1. Encourage bleeding immediately and place the wound under running tap water to flush it out.
2. Do not suck on the wound even if water is not available.
3. Take careful note of the characteristics of the needle and injury (size, type, depth of penetration).
4. Do not recap the needle.
5. Contact your doctor or hospital emergency department as soon as possible.
6. Package the needle in a hard-surfaced, enclosed container and take it to the emergency department with you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
NITHA INFECTION CONTROL ADVISOR
306-953-5000
WWW.NITHA.COM

Source:

1.City of Saskatoon. Needles and Sharps. Retrieved from <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/fire-emergency/community-outreach/needle-safe-information>
2.AIDS Programs and South Saskatchewan. FOUND A NEEDLE? Retrieved from: <https://reportneedles.ca/>