Biosafety Stewardship Month

October is biosafety stewardship month, an opportunity to call attention to biosafety policies, practices and procedures in the laboratory.

Here at Princeton, we're shining a light on sharps safety. Proper use and disposal of sharps—whether needles, scalpels, blades or glass equipment—is one of the most important ways to prevent injury and transmission of infectious agents.

Be Biosafe and Win Stuff!

During Biosafety Stewardship Month, tell EHS how you are biosafe and win exciting prizes! On Twitter or Facebook, use the hashtag #BiosafePrinceton or our handle @PrincetonEHS. Or email your examples to jananiv@Princeton.edu — and include a picture if possible.

Using Sharps Safely in the Research Laboratory

- As part of your risk assessment process, identify all sharps you are using in your procedures and consider if an alternative is available.

- Carefully consider the need to use sharp devices, such as needles and glass pipettes. Penetration of the skin with a biologically-contaminated sharp device can result in transmission of microorganisms and viruses that could lead to serious infections.

Restrict the use of sharp-tipped needles for procedures for which there is no alternative.

- Blunt cannulas can be used to replace sharp-tipped needles for certain procedures such as oral or intranasal animal inoculations, re-suspending lyophilized material through a rubber seal or filling microfluidic chambers.

Pasteur pipettes, capillary tubes and glass septum vials will create a sharp hazard if broken.

- Consider replacing Pasteur pipettes with plastic aspirating pipettes.

Consider the use of sharps with an engineered safety device if available and feasible for your procedure.

- You can find a list of alternatives to conventional sharps here. (link is external)

Seek training in proper techniques prior to using sharp devices with infectious materials.

- Poor technique can increase your risk of sustaining a sharps exposure. Practice in a controlled setting before using a sharp with potentially infectious material.
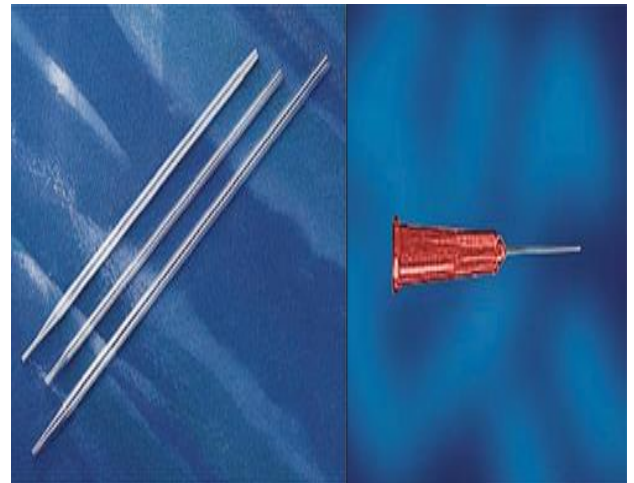
*Plastic aspirating pipette and blunt-tipped needle

Seek training in proper techniques prior to using sharp devices in conjunction with potentially infectious materials.

- Poor technique can increase your risk of sustaining a sharps exposure. Practice in a controlled setting before using a sharp with potentially infectious material.

Use scalpels safely.

- Don't use scalpel blades without a handle. The handle provides you with a means to control the blade and puts a barrier between your hand and the sharp edge.

- Use disposable safety scalpels with fixed blades when possible. These devices eliminate the need to remove a blade, which is difficult to do in a safe manner.

- If you must use a reusable scalpel, choose a device with engineered safety features that allow you to enclose the blade prior to removal. If a safety-engineered blade is not an option, you must use forceps to remove the blade.

Don't leave sharp devices out in the environment.

- Place used, disposable sharps directly into a sharps container immediately after use. Do not recap needles prior to disposal of the device.

- For reusable sharps, such as knives or scissors, a storage container—such as a tray or inexpensive emesis basin—should be readily available at the point of use.

During animal perfusion procedures, place the needle/syringe into a tray or basin in between uses.
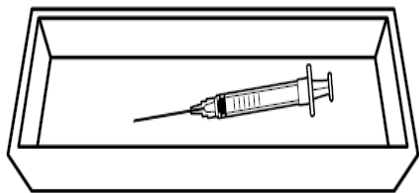
Rigid tray

Do not use syringes with needles attached as a specimen container if other alternatives exist.

- If there are no other alternatives, place the needle and syringe in a leak-proof secondary container with a secure lid for transport.

Take precautions when cleaning/disinfecting sharps.

- When cleaning and reprocessing reusable sharps, use cleaning tools, such as a brush or sponge on a handle, which limits the potential for contact between your hands and the sharps surfaces.

Never put excessive force on a sharp.

- Bending or breaking sharps increases your risk of sustaining a puncture wound.

This Month's Waste Disposal Drop Off: Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Lewis Thomas loading dock (Mol-Bio, Genomics, PNI)
- Collection room open from 2:00 - 4:00 PM
- Coordinators: Michael Fredericks (8-1351)

Jadwin Loading Dock Building (Chemistry & Physics)
- Chemistry collection open from 9:00am-10:00am
- Physics collection by appointment
- Coordinators: Philip Fairall (8-3913) for Chemistry and Jim Kukon (8-4364) for Physics

E-Quad Room 7 (E-Quad and Bowen)
- Collection room open from 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- Coordinators: Joe Laskow (8-4739) or Phil Curry & Anthony Schulz (8-4563)

Hoyt, 185 Nassau
- Collection by appointment.
- Contact Kyle Angelo (8-2711)

## Use an appropriate sharps container for disposal of sharps waste.

- Makeshift containers such as beakers, coffee cans, bleach bottles, etc., are not appropriate sharps containers.

Do not overfill sharps containers.

- Sharps should drop freely into the container. If items don't fall into the container, it is too full or the wrong size.
- Close and lock sharps containers when they are 3/4 full.
- Don't use the sharps container for gauze or gloves or other items that take up space and prevent the sharp from falling freely into the container.
- Don't shake sharps containers to make more room. Shaking creates aerosols and can cause items to come out of the containers.
- Don't force a sharp into a container and never retrieve an item from a sharps container with your hand.
- When the sharps container is 3/4 full, close and lock the lid and place container into a regulated medical waste box.

Needle Disposal
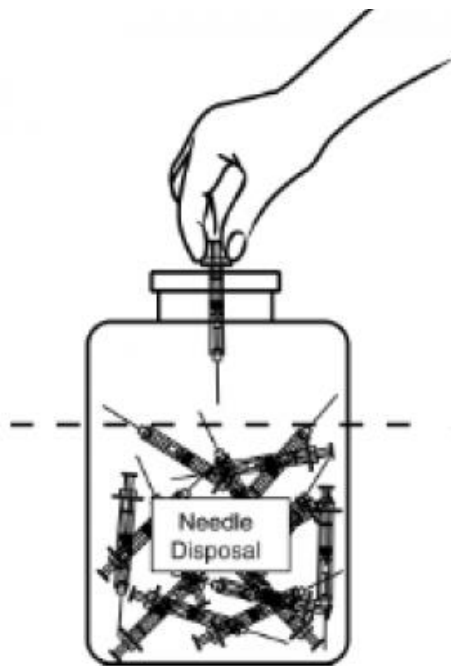
EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS

Main Office	8-5294
Kyle Angjelo (Chemical Waste)	8-2711
Sue Dupre (Radioactive Waste)	8-6252
Tom Drexel (Waste-Paper)	8-6255
Jacqueline Wagner (Biohazardous Waste)	8-1427
EHS Web Page -	http://ehs.princeton.edu