

# Sharps Found in the Community

## North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

### What are Sharps?



Sharps include objects such as needles and syringes, lancets, razors, and other used drug use equipment. These have the potential for cutting or penetrating human skin and causing infections such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B (HBV), and hepatitis C (HCV).

### What do I do if sharps are found on property in the community?

Do not panic; you can avoid an injury and infection by proceeding with care.



**Remind children to never pick up sharps.**

**If you are willing and able to pick up sharps:**



- Find a hard-sided puncture proof container with a lid.
- Bring heavy gloves, tongs or tweezers, or if not available, a thick cloth to pick up sharps.
- Do not recap, bend, break the sharps or manipulate them by hand in any way.
- Pick up sharps from blunt end with the sharp end pointing away from you, put into the container and secure the lid.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Label the container “Hazardous Waste” and bring the container to your local hazardous waste depot, to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit or to the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area (ACNBA) for proper disposal.

**If you are not able to pick up or discard found sharps, you can:**

Call your municipal Public Works department (if sharps found in public places). **705-474-4340**

Contact North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit for further direction if necessary:

**North Bay:** 345 Oak Street West, North Bay, ON P1B 2T2  
Tel: (705) 474-1400

**Parry Sound:** 70 Joseph Street, Unit 302, Parry Sound, ON P2A 2G5  
Tel: (705) 746-5801, Toll Free: 1-800-563-2808

[www.healthunit.ca](http://www.healthunit.ca)

### What do I do if a sharps injury occurs?

A sharps injury is a wound (cut or puncture of the skin) caused by sharps such as needles or syringes, lancets, razors, or other used drug use equipment).

- Allow for immediate bleeding of the wound.
- Wash the injured area well with soap and water, and apply a mild antiseptic if it is available.
- Cover the wound with a bandage.
- Contact your health care provider immediately or visit the nearest hospital.
- Have your immunization information available to discuss with health care provider.