

Disposal of needles, syringes, and vaccine vials/ampoules

Do not separate needles from syringes or recap needles, unless a recapping device is used. All empty, partly used vials/ampoules, syringes and needles should be discarded into the sharps container.

Sharps containers

- Sharps containers should be made of rigid, leak and puncture proof material. They must be fitted with a carrying handle and have an opening that is wide enough to allow disposable materials to be dropped into the container with one hand while still preventing removal of the contents.
- Sharps containers should be situated out of children's reach and available in every area where sharps are used.
- Sharps containers should be filled only to the indicated line, then sealed and given to an approved hazardous waste disposal person for incineration (as per the Resource Management Act 1991).

Splashes & Spillages

- For blood or body fluid splashes on the skin – thoroughly wash the area under cold running water then wash with appropriate hand wash.
- For spills on work surfaces, put on gloves and treat the spill by wiping the area with a pad soaked in 0.5 percent hypochlorite (household bleach diluted 1 to 9 parts water). Repeat with the hypochlorite solution and a fresh pad then clean up with water or a commercial detergent. Alternatively granular hypochlorite can be used for liquid spills, by applying sufficient granules to absorb the spilt fluid and then cleaning up after 10 minutes contact time. Carefully seal all contaminated material in approved biohazard bag for incineration by an approved hazardous waste disposal person.
- Contaminated linen is adequately treated by a routine hot wash cycle (60°C–70°C) using an ordinary bleach concentration.