

What to do if you encounter a needle or other drug paraphernalia

If you choose to pick up a needle or other drug paraphernalia, handle them with care and ensure to:

- Treat all needles, glass stems and other drug paraphernalia (cookers, blades, etc.) as contaminated.
- Wear gloves (ie. latex, rubber, leather gardening gloves). Note: gloves are meant to protect against fluid contamination, not punctures or cuts.
- Use tongs, pliers, or tweezers to pick up the needle or paraphernalia. Be sure to clean and disinfect the pickup instrument afterwards.
- Put the sharps disposal container on a stable surface next to the needle. Do not hold the container in your hand, or between your knees or feet.
- Pick up the needle by the plastic end (barrel).
- Point the needle tip away from your body. Careful not to poke yourself with the needle.
- Place the needlepoint down into the container. Do not force the needle into the container.



- If you do not have a specialized sharps container, put the needle into a non-breakable, puncture-proof container with a lid. (ie. thick plastic bottle).
- Close the container securely.
- Sharps can be returned to all THU locations and participating pharmacies. To find the nearest needle disposal location visit: timiskaminghu.com.
- Do not flush needles down the **toilet** or put them in the **garbage** or **recycling bin**.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after removal of gloves.



If a needle injury occurs, wash the area well, let wound bleed, do not apply pressure to the wound, and seek immediate medical attention.



Always follow your organization's sharps disposal policies and procedures. If your organization has a contract with a licensed biomedical waste disposal company, properly secure the sharps and contact your contractor for pickup and disposal.

For more information, please visit timiskaminghu.com.



Services de santé du
TIMISKAMING
Health Unit

New Liskeard: (705) 647-4305 | (866) 747-4305
Englehart: (705) 544-2221 | 877-544-2221
Kirkland Lake: (705) 567-9355 | (866) 967-9355
[f](https://www.facebook.com/timiskaminghu) [t](https://twitter.com/timiskaminghu) [i](https://www.instagram.com/timiskaminghu) timiskaminghu.com