

Meewasin Clean Up Campaign Volunteer Info

Safety Information

Needle Safety Information

Discarded hypodermic needles have become a growing concern in Saskatoon. Too often they are found in parks, near playgrounds, and schools. The fear is that someone could be accidentally stuck by a needle infected with HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis. In 1998, Saskatoon Fire Department and Public Health Services Saskatoon jointly launched a needle pick-up program.

If you find a needle, follow the steps below for safe pick up and disposal:

- Do not recap the needle.
- Wear garden, work or medical gloves.
- 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 that needles cannot poke through (e.g. liquid laundry detergent or bleach container).
- Fill a container no more than 3/4 full. If the container is too full, the needles may poke through the side.
- Put the container lid on tightly and tape it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Store the container in a safe place away from children until you can dispose of it safely.
- Do not place needles in city garbage or recycling.
- Place in a needle drop box in your community. Call 306-655-4444 for needle drop box locations or view the Needle Safe Brochure.
- Call 306-655-4664 if you do not have these clean-up items.
- Ensure children understand they should never pick up needles. If they find a discarded needle, they should notify an adult immediately.

If you are not comfortable handling or disposing of the needle yourself, please call:

Saskatoon Fire Department - 306-975-3030

Public Health Services Saskatoon - 306-655-4444

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

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/fire-emergency/community-outreach/needle-safe-information>

