Safe Disposal of Needles & Syringes

What to do if you find a discarded needle and syringe

Find a rigid-walled, puncture resistant, plastic container with a screw top lid such as a milk, juice or soft drink bottle.
Do not use:
Glass bottles as they can shatter
Aluminium cans which may squash
Some frosted plastic containers which may not be puncture proof
Bring the container to the needle and syringe, and place on the ground next to the needle and syringe. Do not hold the container as you are disposing of the needle and syringe.
Pick up the needle and syringe by the blunt end, away from the point.
Do not touch the sharp point with your fingers.
Do not try to re-cap the needle.
Place the needle and syringe into the container, sharp end first. You can place more than one needle and syringe in a container but take care not to over fill.
Seal the container tightly.
Put the sealed container into the domestic rubbish bin immediately.
Do not dispose of in the recycling bin.
Tell children never to pick up a needle, but to let an adult know if they find one.

What to do if you injure yourself with a discarded needle

Wash the area gently with soap and clean running tap water as soon as possible.
Apply an antiseptic and a clean dressing.
Obtain prompt medical advice from your local doctor or hospital emergency department, preferably within 24 hrs.