Sharps Disposal Containers

Four Major Criteria for a Sharps Disposal Container

- Functionality
  - Container should remain fully functional during entire usage
    - Durable — resistant to chemical or liquid permeation or degradation
    - Closure mechanisms — designed to minimize exposure to contents
    - Stability — stable when placed on a horizontal surface
    - Size and shape — sufficient size to accommodate the largest sharp used at the workstation it serves
    - Leak-resistant on sides and bottom
    - Puncture-resistant until final disposal
    - Have adequate volume and safe access to the disposal inlet
    - Container mounting brackets should be rugged and easy to service and decontaminate

- Accessibility
  - Container should be conveniently placed within the workplace
  - Installation height:
    - Place within arm’s reach and below eye level at use point
    - Calculate wall-mounted container to ensure it is within an ergonomically acceptable range

- Visibility
  - Plainly visible within the workplace
  - Workers should be able to see the volume of disposed sharps within the container
  - The container should display the proper warning labels and color-coding

- Accommodation
  - Containers should be placed in convenient locations for the user
  - Location selection process must also include ease of storage and simplicity of operation

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