Safety Tips
from the WorkSafe People

Sharps Disposal Containers
Four Major Criteria for a Sharps Disposal Container

• Functionality
• Accessibility
• Visibility
• Accommodation

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

Accessibility
• Container should be conveniently placed within the workplace
• Installation height:
  o Place within arm’s reach and below eye level at use point
  o 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
• Place containers in locations that are convenient for the user
• Select locations that take into account ease of storage and simplicity of operation