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# Sharps Training

For more information, visit our [Sharps Training](#) webpage.

## COURSE CONTENTS

This training course is broken down into 2 sections

- 1 What are Sharps?
- 2 Preventing the spread of infections

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ✔ Learn what things are classified as Sharps and the risks posed by them
- ✔ Learn about how to reduce the risk of injury from Sharps and how to dispose of them correctly
- ✔ Learn about employee and employer responsibilities to help reduce the spread of infections

## ABOUT THIS COURSE

“Sharps” waste is a form of **hazardous waste** which includes any objects that are used to puncture the skin. These materials must be handled with care and safety.

Annually, there are **16 billion injections** administered both in and out of hospitals around the world. However, there are a large number of needles and syringes that are not correctly disposed of and these could cause harm to others.

[Safe Needle Disposal](#) gives examples of sharps such as; needles, syringes, lancets, auto-injectors, infusion sets and connection needle/sets. Hence, Sharps is not just exclusive to needles as many think. Anything attached to needles and blades is also considered as Sharps waste and therefore, needs to be disposed of properly.

There are dangers associated with Sharps materials as **bloodborne diseases** and infections can be passed through them. Some of the diseases connected with Sharps materials are **Hepatitis B, C and HIV**, but are not exclusive to these three. This risk is, logically, higher to those working within the healthcare industry, however, there are risks to people using needles and blades at home and work. The general public can be put at risk too from improper needle disposal from drug use.