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Needle Stick Injuries

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We have had recent incidents where cleaners have been pricked by needles when handling rubbish.

To protect yourself when working in a public area and disposing of rubbish, remember:

* Syringe needles can be found anywhere.
* Always assume bins, garden beds, waste, bathroom areas contain a syringe needle.
* Do not place hands into bins or anywhere you can’t properly visually inspect, it may contain a syringe needle.
* Never compress rubbish with your hands. Use a tool.
* **Wear cut resistant gloves** when handling rubbish bags.
* Pick up rubbish bags carefully from the top. Hold the bag away from your body.
* Use a trolley to relocate rubbish bags.
* Use tongs or a long handle ash-pan and broom to pick up rubbish.
* If you find a syringe needle, report to your supervisor.
* Only cleaners trained in the Safe Handling of Sharps are to dispose of a syringe needle.

 