

Fact Sheet: Needle Recapping

Although recapping needles is not recommended in the lab, there are times in which it must be done. In the event that needles must be filled in advance of their use, there are safe methods that can be used to "recap" them using one hand. Here are several suggestions for doing this in a safe manner:

1. "One-handed scoop" method:

Place the cap on the benchtop and hold the syringe in one hand. Keep the other hand by your side. Slide the needle into the cap, then lift it up and snap it on securely using only one hand.



2. Using a sterile 50 mL centrifuge tube or Styrofoam rack:

Place the uncapped needle inside a conical tube temporarily instead of recapping. Alternatively, put the cap inside an open centrifuge tube or rack so that the needle can be inserted into it and the cap and secured by firmly pushing the needle downward into it. There are also commercial [needle recapping devices](#) available for this purpose.



**Remember to keep a designated sharps container nearby for disposal of sharps,
and don't recap unless absolutely necessary!**