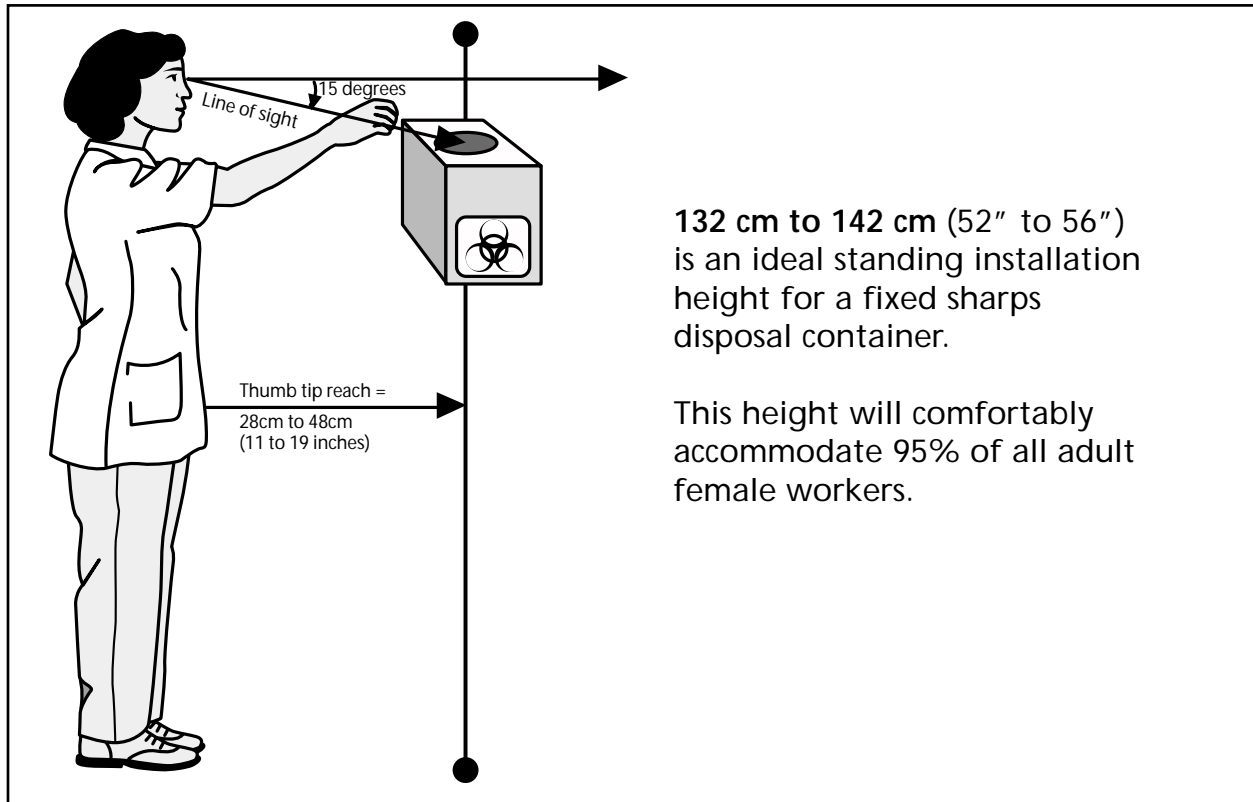


SHARPS CONTAINER ASSESSMENT

The effective use of sharps disposal containers is a key component in the prevention of needlestick injuries. The information below is designed to help you assess the safety of sharps containers within your workplace. It is recommended you speak with your supervisor and Joint Health & Safety Committee if you feel the containers in your workplace do not meet the standards outlined below. If you feel your concerns are not resolved, contact your Bargaining Unit/Local/Labour Relations Officers and/or your Ministry of Labour Representative.

IDEAL PLACEMENT FOR WALL-MOUNTED CONTAINERS



132 cm to 142 cm (52" to 56") is an ideal standing installation height for a fixed sharps disposal container.

This height will comfortably accommodate 95% of all adult female workers.

Additional considerations:

- Is the container easily accessible (close to point of practice, convenient, in patient room, within arm's reach, sufficient number of containers available)? Yes No
- Are any obstacles present preventing access to the container (furniture, equipment, within path of frequent traffic)? Yes No
- Is the container upright and stable? Yes No
- Is there a clear, unobstructed view of the container opening? Yes No
- Is the container filled below the fill line? Yes No
- Is the container unsoiled and free of leaks? Yes No
- Does the size of the container accommodate all sharps used within the workplace as well as an adequate volume of sharps? Yes No
- Is disposal of sharps easy – the container allows one-handed disposal? ... Yes No

Adapted from Selecting, Evaluating, and Using Sharps Disposal Containers, CDC/NIOSH, 1997.

