

Janitorial Safety Tip Sheet

A series of health and safety tips to prevent work-related injuries in the janitorial industry



Watch Out for Hidden Dangers!

November 2023



Needlestick injuries are common in janitorial work

- Always look before reaching into any hard-to-see areas
- Use tools if you need to reach into an area you can't see clearly.
- Avoid reaching into trash bags or bins with your hands – wear puncture-resistant gloves when handling trash.
- Never handle needles with bare hands.

If you do get stuck by a needle at work:

1. Seek medical attention and tell the doctor it happened at work.
2. You and your doctor can fill out a workers' compensation claim.
3. Tell your employer.

For more information on filing a claim:

<https://lni.wa.gov/claims/for-workers/injured-what-you-need-to-know/>

Can you spot where needles are often hidden?

- Many janitors find needles in the trash. They can hide in waste bins and disposal boxes (for example - under paper towel dispensers, or in stalls)
- Needles can be found everywhere, not just in bathrooms – but spaces around fixtures like sinks and toilet can conceal dangers.