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| **Safety Procedure Title:** | **How to Safely Handle Garbage** |
| **Issue Date:** | **July 2002** |
| **Revised Date:** | **October 2015;**  **Charlotte Fetterly, M.Sc(A) Occupational Hygienist**  **Fetterly OHS Services Ltd.** |
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This safe work procedure contains basic instructions on how to safely handle garbage.

# Risk assessment

The risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens from the task of Handling Garbage is LOW to MODERATE depending on the environment (typical office compared to parks and recreation facilities) and because the City staff have experienced needle stick injuries in the past from carrying garbage bags against their body.

# GUIDELINES

* Handle garbage as little as possible.
* Use plastic garbage bags.
* Be alert. Look for sharps sticking out of the bag. Listen for broken glass.
* Do not compress garbage or reach into garbage containers with bare hands.
* Do not use bare hands to pick up garbage that has spilled, use a tool to pick the garbage up or with gloved hands as a last resort.
* Do not let garbage bags get too full:
  + Ensure bag is not completely full so there is enough free bag to grab.
  + Partially full bags are lighter so that they can be held away from the body
* Hold garbage bags by the top of the bag away from your body. Do not hold garbage bags against your body.
* Do not place a hand under the bag to support it.
* Use cart or wheeled can to transport garbage bags long distances.