

Sharpsmart

Leading innovation in healthcare waste management.

Sharpsmart aims to bring the safety benefits of its reusable sharps management system to healthcare workers in the UK and to rapidly become the leading supplier of safer sharps management. Having recognised the firm in this year's Recycling & Waste Management Awards we profile it to showcase how it came to be awarded one of these prestigious accolades.

Sharpsmart's safety-driven solutions have helped healthcare facilities across the UK to reduce their impact on the environment whilst at the same time protect staff and patients alike.

Part of the Daniels Health group which has operations in Australia, USA, Canada, New Zealand, UK and South Africa; Sharpsmart is widely regarded as a leader of innovation in the clinical waste space. The firm's flagship product, the Sharpsmart collector, was launched in 1999 and is now used in thousands of healthcare facilities around the globe. It has been peer reviewed in numerous medical journals with findings that indisputably assert it as the safest sharps collector in the world.

From peer-reviewed, safety-engineered sharps containers to comprehensive waste collections, each of the firm's solutions has been specifically engineered to help their clients' healthcare facility exceed its goals in the critical areas of safety, sustainability, efficiency, compliance and education.

Amongst the firm's other products is the Clinismart system, which is an innovative way to deal with waste that is generated at a patient's bedside. Comprising of a range of bespoke components and blended learning tools, the solution is designed to safely contain and divert waste at the point of generation – helping to significantly reduce costs.

These solutions are incredibly important, as healthcare workers may suffer sharps injuries when disposing of instruments – the most common occurring because of containers that have been over-filled and are left with sharps protruding. Most sharps containers used in Europe are destroyed once they are filled, and for this reason are mass-produced with few effective safety features.

Another serious factor with single-use sharps containers is that they add to the huge amount of plastic waste generated by hospitals each year. This plastic is often incinerated, adding to greenhouse-gas emissions.

Dedicated to providing a unique solution, Sharpsmart offers a unique reusable system, which has been proven to reduce sharps injuries while costing less than other safety devices and also reducing plastic waste. After 5 years of research, development and trials the Sharpsmart system had been refined so that it not only met all of the requirements demanded by healthcare workers, but also significantly reduced sharps injuries.

In 2003, results from the largest international study of sharps containment systems was published in the British Journal of Hospital Infection, showing that the Sharpsmart system achieved an average 33% reduction in total sharps injuries in hospitals where it had been introduced.

Ultimately, through education, innovation and service, Sharpsmart is committed to making the healthcare industry safer for the people who work in it and continually drive the development of ecologically sustainable solutions to reduce the environmental impact of healthcare waste. The firm's overall goal is to work with more and more healthcare organisations to become the number one in the industry for healthcare waste management solutions. This remains the firm's ongoing focus as it looks towards a bright and exciting future.

