Knives:

Sharps are present in the warehouse to make our jobs easier, but they come with risks. These risks are further exacerbated if sharps are not properly maintained. The takeaway for utilizing these tools is always maintaining as high a level of intentional control as possible. Responsible sharps handling falls into the following three categories: active usage, safe storage, and regular maintenance. Neglecting even one of these significantly increases risk in all categories.

Real time judgment tip: if a sharp isn't operating as expected, do not proceed with using it as is. If an inappropriate cutting technique is being used, it's very possible to lose control and injure yourself or others, especially unintentionally. If a poorly maintained sharp is being used, control can be compromised even with appropriate technique.

General guidelines for sharps:

1. If a sharp's intended shape does not match its real shape, do not use it.
2. If a sharps' edge is not clean, do not use it.
3. Sharps are only to be used to manipulate packaging.

Detailed categories for sharps handling:

Active Usage:

1. Retrieve the intended tool from safe storage.
    a. There should be a labeled or otherwise clearly designated toolbox. Consistency is key for anything that needs to be maintained.
2. Inspect the packaging to be opened or disassembled.
    a. Often, packaging is filled to its limit to save on shipping costs per shipping label, so find a vantage point that will not damage the product and an area with enough space to avoid accidentally contacting another person.
3. Unsheathed the edge of the tool.
    a. Different shapes have different methods of securing their blades for safe storage. Sometimes the sheath is a separate entity from the handle, other times it may be a retractable blade, with or without a safety lock or spring mechanism.
4. Inspect the blade for imperfections and remove imperfections per respective tool handling guidelines.
    a. For straight edge razors, any blemish to the blade line, be it a piece of tape or an actual chip or deformation, will reduce the slicing efficacy and drastically increase the chance of lost control if used as is.

b. For serrated edge saws or knives, any debris, missing tooth, or misaligned tooth will reduce the sawing efficiency and drastically increase the chance of lost control if used as is.
c. For heavy cleaving knives or axes, chipping, warping, and dulling all will reduce cleaving efficacy and drastically increase the chance of lost control and injury if used as is.

5. Open or disassemble the packaging using appropriate cutting techniques and safety protocols.
    a. For straight edge razors, the only appropriate cutting technique is a straight slice. A razor slice should be made at a glancing to 30-degree angle incident to the *thing being cut*.
        i. Cleaving will chip and deform edges
        ii. Sawing will deform and blunt edges.
    b. For serrated edge saws or knives, the only appropriate cutting technique is a regularly paced saw. The serration should be parallel to the surface being sawed.
    The pressure across the motion should also be kept parallel to the cut.
        i. Slicing will blunt and deform teeth and clog the teeth with debris.
        ii. ii. Cleaving will break teeth and deform bands.
        iii. Irregularly pressured and timed sawing will blunt and deform teeth unevenly.
    c. For heavy cleaving knives or axes, the appropriate cutting technique is cleaving. The blade should be making normal contact to the surface, and the direction of force should be a straight line going from spine to blade to surface. The only angle of incidence for a cleave should be 90 degrees. This line can be produced either through controlled swinging while gripping the handle or hitting the spine of the cleaver with another tool.
        i. Sawing risks jamming the tool, causing removal safety issues.
        ii. Properly controlled slicing is more difficult with the larger sizes of a cleaving tool.
6. Inspect the blade for imperfections and remove imperfections per respective tool handling guidelines.
    a. Ibid inspection guidelines of step 4, but after using the tool.
7. Sheath the edge of the tool.
    a. Highly preferably the original sheathing mechanic used in step 3.
8. Return tool to safe storage location.
    a. Consistency is key for anything that needs to be maintained.

Safe Storage:

1. Keep the designated sharps container in a designated location for both consistency and safety. A locking lid or secured bay is advised to avoid accidental exposure to drop sharps.
2. Keep stored sharp sharply, appropriately sheathed or otherwise safely stored. Even in a secured location, an unsheathed blade can cause injury while reaching into a container.
3. Keep sharps refills and disposal in designated locations and clearly accessible.

Regular Maintenance:

On top of spot maintenance within active usage, all work sharps should be regularly maintained. This maintenance should only be performed by someone that has been appropriately trained and can be trusted to deal with blades that have had their safety features removed.

1. Identify the blade type.
2. Identify what imperfections are present.
3. Select materials and tools based on blade type and imperfections.
4. Designate work area, including keeping unauthorized individuals from entering the space when blades are exposed.
5. Disassemble tool to the necessary point to safely maintain the blade.
6. Perform blade maintenance.
7. Reassemble the tool.
8. Return the tool to its designated area.
9. Clean the workspace.

Blade maintenance training may be provided for those who express interest and have already displayed agreeable levels of integrity in other job aspects, at the discretion of the respective managerial staff.