

Sharps and Laboratory Glass Disposal

Medical Sharps, infectious materials, and hazardous chemicals are prohibited in normal trash

NEEDLES AND OTHER SHARPS

Sharps: Items designed to cut or puncture skin and sharp items contaminated with human blood and body fluids.

- Needles
- Syringes with needles
- Lancets
- Scalpels and razor blades
- Contaminated broken vials, hematocrit tubes, Pasteur pipettes and laboratory slides



Sharps Container: Closable, puncture resistant, leakproof. Labeled with biohazard emblem or “sharps”, “infectious waste”, or “biohazard”. Meets DNR and OSHA Standards.



Disposal Procedure:

- Collect in a sharps container.
- When full, take to a sharps collection area and deposit container in the red plastic MERI collection bin.
- Custodians will not handle sharps containers in most buildings.



HAZARDOUS GLASS AND PLASTIC

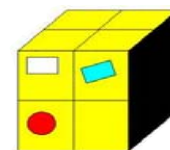
Hazardous Glass and Plastic: Items that can cut if disposed of in normal trash containers.

- Pasteur pipettes
- Other pipettes and tips
- Slides and cover slips
- Broken or fragile glass



Sturdy, Leakproof Container:

- Use plastic liner for cardboard boxes.
- Double box or tape seams to contain waste, use heavy duty tape.
- Limit weight to 20 lbs.
- Use discarded boxes or purchase cardboard or plastic containers.



Disposal Procedure:

- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate before boxing.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals and drain liquids.
- Seal container closed.
- Mark box with the words “Glass for Disposal”.
- Affix green “OK To Trash” label.
- Place in hallway next to your lab door.
- Custodians will dispose of container in most buildings; otherwise lab staff take it to dumpster.



EMPTY BOTTLES, OTHER GLASS AND PLASTIC

Unbroken Glass and Plastic: Items that present no hazard if disposed of as normal trash.

- Petri dishes (decontaminated)
- Sturdy test and centrifuge tubes
- Empty bottles
- Microtiter plates



Regular Lab Wastebasket

Disposal Procedure:

- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate first.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals, rinse and drain liquids.
- Place in wastebasket.
- Place large (4 liter) cleaned bottles in the hall mark OK to Trash.
- Custodian will take trash to dumpster.



Some buildings (e.g., Chemistry and the University Hospital) may have slightly modified disposal procedures. Contact your building manager for details about local procedures.