



# Quick Reference: Sharps

## DISPOSAL

### Biohazardous Sharps

- All sharp materials that have come into contact with human materials, viruses, or other potentially infectious materials.
- Must be disposed of in red, leak-proof, biohazardous sharps containers.
- ALL needles, razor blades and scalpels must ALWAYS be considered infectious, even if they have not come into contact with infectious materials.



*Proper sharps disposal is essential to keeping Penn workers, the environment, and the public safe.*

### Non-Infectious Sharps

- Any broken glass, serological pipets used to pipet buffers, or other materials that have not come into contact with infectious materials.
- Must be disposed of in leak-proof hard-sided containers



## REUSEABLE SHARPS

A new program is available for the medical school and many other buildings on campus. Curtis Bay Energy provides reusable biohazard sharps containers to labs and a scheduled pick-up service. This program saves labs time and money while improving safety to workers.

## SHARPS AND SAFETY

### What are sharps?

Anything that is capable of cutting skin or poking through a waste bag.

This includes:

Needles, razor blades, pipet tips, serological pipets, broken glass, etc.

### Points to remember

- DO NOT overfill any container
- Rearranging puts workers at risk
- Handle all sharps with care
- NEVER put sharps in the regular trash

## MIXED WASTE

For those laboratories who generate chemically contaminated or radioactively contaminated sharps waste, please see the biosafety manual or consult EHRs for proper waste disposal.



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