

## School of Engineering and Applied Science Laboratories Infectious Waste Disposal Guide\*

\* For research laboratories located in the SEAS Laboratories. More information on waste removal in SEAS can be found at <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/eos/faq.html#waste>. Procedures may vary in other University spaces. For more information on infectious waste, consult the University's Biological Safety Manual ([http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/programs/bio/bio\\_manual.html](http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/programs/bio/bio_manual.html)), or call EHRs at 215-898-4453.

Container Type	Glassware/ Plasticware Waste Cardboard Box	Infectious Waste Sharps Container**	Infectious Waste Autoclave Bags	Infectious Waste Liquid Containers	Red Bag Lined Infectious Waste Boxes
<b>Contents</b>	<p>Untamminated laboratory glassware and plasticware. Chemical bottles must be triple rinsed and label defaced.</p> <p>Line cardboard glassware boxes with heavy, clear plastic bags.</p> <p>Do not use biohazard boxes or red/orange bags under any circumstances.</p>	<p><u>Infectious waste sharps including:</u> All needles, syringes, and blades; broken or unbroken glass and plasticware that has contacted infectious agents or was used in animal or human patient care or treatment, including plastic pipettes and other used plasticware that is recognizable after autoclaving or made of plastic that shatters on breakage or is considered breakable by the investigator.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste:</u> Segregate from other sharps into special sharps containers and label "Chemical Contaminated Sharps Waste-Do Not Autoclave"</p> <p><u>Non-infectious Sharps (needles, syringes, and blades):</u> Dispose in a sharps container through the <i>infectious waste</i> stream. Containers of non-infectious sharps may be discarded as infectious waste without prior autoclaving.</p> <p>NOTE: Non-infectious sharps may be commingled with infectious waste sharps or carcinogen-contaminated sharps waste. If this is done, they must be managed as described for the respective category of sharps.</p>	<p>All contaminated laboratory items <u>NOT</u> considered sharps, including used plasticware that is deformed after autoclaving or made of polyethylene (PE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and other thermoplastic polymers provided they do not shatter on breakage or are considered unbreakable by the investigator.</p>	<p>Infectious waste fluids (volumes greater than 20 cc).</p>	<p>Infectious waste that has been autoclaved.</p> <p><u>Chemical contaminated sharps containers</u> that have NOT been autoclaved.</p> <p><u>Non-infectious sharps containers**</u> that have NOT been autoclaved, with label defaced.</p>
<b>Reusable</b>	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
<b>Disposal Methods</b>	<p>Seal cardboard box when ¾ full for housekeepers to remove.</p>	<p><u>Infectious sharps waste:</u> Autoclave containers and discard in red bag lined infectious waste boxes located in the autoclave room.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste (with label defaced):</u> Discard both <b>without</b> autoclaving in red bag lined infectious waste boxes located in the autoclave room.</p>	<p>Autoclave waste bags and discard in red bag lined infectious waste boxes.</p>	<p>Autoclave liquid or use appropriate disinfectant before pouring into a sanitary sewer drain.</p> <p>The reusable container must be washed and autoclaved before reuse.</p>	<p>Waste vendor will pick up infectious waste regularly. Contact the Building Administrator for more details.</p>
<b>Container Source</b>	User must purchase.	User must purchase sharps container. Red bag lined boxes are supplied by vendor.	User must purchase autoclavable waste bags. Red bag lined boxes are supplied by vendor.	User must purchase.	Red bag lined boxes are supplied by vendor.

\*\* NOTE: All sharps must be disposed of in sharps containers at the time of generations and kept there until final destruction. For more details on how to properly sort and manage disposal of all laboratory sharps waste, consult the EHRs LABORATORY SHARPS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (<http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/programs/bio/waste/usedsharps.html>).