



Quick Reference: Sharps



DISPOSAL

SHARPS AND SAFETY

Biohazardous Sharps

- All sharp materials that have come into contact with human materials, pathogens, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, or other potentially infectious materials must be disposed of in red, leak-proof, biohazardous sharps containers.
- **ALL needles, razor blades, scalpels, and syringes** (with and without needles attached) must **ALWAYS** be disposed of in a sharps container, regardless of their use.



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

Non-Infectious Sharps

- Any broken glass, serological pipets, pipet tips or other materials that have not come into contact with infectious or hazardous materials but have the potential to puncture a bag.
- Must be disposed of in leak-proof sturdy containers.



REUSEABLE SHARPS CONTAINER

This program is available for all labs on campus. Advant-Edge Solutions provides reusable sharps containers to labs with a scheduled pick-up service. This program saves labs time and money while improving safety to workers.

What are sharps?

Sharps are defined as any material that is capable of puncturing through a bag.

Sharps includes:

Needles, syringes (with and without needle attached), razor blades, pipet tips, serological pipets, pasture pipettes, etc.)

Points to remember

- Disposed of sharps container when 2/3 full.
- DO NOT rearrange waste after placing it in sharps or glasswaste container
- Do not overfill glasswaste boxes
- Handle all sharps with care
- **NEVER** put sharps in the regular landfill waste

MIXED WASTE

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