

Chemistry Laboratories Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories located in the Chemistry Laboratories. 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), or call EHRS at 215-898-4453.

| Container Type | Glassware/ Plasticware Waste Container | Infectious Waste Sharps Container** | Infectious Waste Autoclave Bags | Infectious Waste Liquid Containers |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Contents | <p>Uncontaminated laboratory glassware and plasticware. Chemical bottles must be triple rinsed and label defaced.</p> <p>Line cardboard glassware boxes with clear, heavy 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 sharps containers labeled "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 chemical-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 NOT 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> |
| Reusable | NO | <p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u> – YES</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u> – NO</p> | NO | YES |
| Disposal Methods | <p>Seal cardboard box when ¾ full for housekeepers to remove.</p> | <p><u>Disposable sharps containers:</u> autoclave containers and bring down to the Chem 58 Stock Room.</p> <p><u>Reusable Sharps Containers:</u> vendor will remove full, closed containers and replace with empty ones</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste (with label defaced):</u> Bring both without autoclaving to the Chem 58 Stock Room.</p> | <p>Autoclave red/orange bagged infectious waste and discard in red bag lined cardboard waste boxes located in the autoclave room.</p> <p>*Cardboard boxes must remain in autoclave room!</p> <p>Facilities staff removes boxes regularly.</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> |
| Container Source | User must purchase. | <p><u>Disposable sharps containers:</u> – user must purchase</p> <p><u>Reusable containers for sharps:</u> – delivered by vendor: Curtis Bay (Mr. Jim Frank @ 610-301-2913)</p> | User must purchase red/orange infectious waste bags. Red bag lined boxes are supplied by vendor. | User must purchase. |

** 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>).