

Medical School Laboratory Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories located in School of Medicine buildings (except Smilow and South Tower). Procedures may vary in the hospital, clinical areas or 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	Infectious Waste Bins
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 and syringes; 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 label "Chemical Contaminated Sharps Waste- Do Not Autoclave"</p> <p><u>Non-infectious Sharps:</u> Dispose in a sharps container through the <i>infectious waste</i> stream. Containers of non-infectious sharps may be discarded as <i>infectious waste without prior autoclaving if the label is defaced.</i></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 <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> and <u>Non-infectious sharps containers</u> that have <u>NOT</u> been autoclaved.</p>
Reusable	<p>NO, if using a lined glassware/ plasticware waste cardboard box.</p> <p>YES, if using a white glass waste bucket. (where available)</p>	<p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u> - YES</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u> - NO</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p>
Disposal Methods	<p>Seal cardboard box when ¾ full for housekeepers to remove.</p> <p>Glass waste buckets are removed regularly by housekeepers.</p>	<p><u>Reusable sharps containers:</u> vendor will remove full, closed containers and replace with empty ones</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers:</u> autoclave containers and discard in red bag lined brown barrels located in the autoclave room.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste (with label defaced):</u> discard both without autoclaving into brown barrels located in the autoclave room.</p>	<p>Autoclave red/orange bagged infectious waste and discard in infectious waste bins.</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>Space Planning and Operations empties waste bins regularly.</p>
Container Source	<p>User must purchase cardboard boxes. Space Planning and Operations (8-8000) supplies buckets.</p>	<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>	<p>User must purchase.</p>	<p>User must purchase.</p>	<p>Space Planning and Operations (8-8000)</p>

** 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>).