

Medical School Laboratory Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories located in School of Medicine buildings (except 3600, TRL, 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 (<https://ehrs.upenn.edu/health-safety/biosafety/biological-safety-manual>), or refer questions about the disposal of sharps to EHRS at 215-898-4453 or email the office at ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu.

Container Type	Glassware/ Plasticware Waste Cardboard Box	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. Trace amounts of chemical contamination is allowed.</p> <p>Line cardboard glassware boxes with heavy, clear plastic liner.</p> <p>Do not use biohazard burn boxes or red/orange bags to collect glass/plasticware waste under any circumstances.</p>	<p><u>Infectious waste sharps</u>: including 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 (trace amounts)</u>: Dispose of in Reusable Sharps Container -or- segregate into disposable sharps containers labeled "Chemical Contaminated Sharps Waste-Do Not Autoclave"</p> <p><u>Non-infectious Sharps</u>: Dispose in a sharps container through the infectious waste 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 <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>
Reusable	<p>NO, if using a lined glassware/ plasticware waste cardboard box.</p> <p>YES, if using a white glass waste bucket (users must now purchase these)</p>	<p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u> - YES (do not autoclave)</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u> – NO (autoclave prior to disposal unless otherwise indicated)</p>	NO	YES
Disposal Methods	<p>Seal cardboard box when $\frac{3}{4}$ full for housekeepers to remove. Do not overfill!</p> <p>Glass waste buckets are removed regularly by housekeepers. Do not overfill!</p>	<p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u>: are picked up at their location by vendor and replaced with clean containers.</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u>: autoclave containers and discard in designated collection bins located near the autoclave room.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste</u>: discard both without autoclaving and place in designated collection bins located near autoclave room.</p>	<p>Autoclave red/orange bagged infectious waste and discard in designated collection bins located near the autoclave room</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	<p>User must purchase cardboard boxes or white buckets labeled with "GLASSWASTE".</p>	<p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u>: – user must purchase</p> <p><u>Reusable containers for sharps</u>: – delivered by vendor: Advant-Edge Solutions (service@asiwaste.com)</p>	User must purchase.	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 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE for the DISPOSAL of SHARP OBJECTS in LABORATORIES (<https://ehrs.upenn.edu/health-safety/regulated-waste/sharps-glassware/laboratory-sharps-waste>).