

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 (<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 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 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 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 (trace amount):</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 (needles, syringes, and blades):</u> Dispose in a sharps container through the infectious waste stream.</p> <p><u>All other biologically contaminated laboratory items not considered above:</u> including but not limited to tissue culture flasks, petri dishes, soiled paper products and disposable gloves.</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	NO	YES	NO - small tabletop containers	NO	YES
Disposal Methods	<p>Seal cardboard box when ¾ full for housekeepers to remove.</p>	<p>Vendor will pick up at their location and replaced with clean containers.</p> <p>Contact the Building Administrator for more details.</p>	<p>Discard in reusable sharps container.</p>	<p>Seal and discard in the reusable sharps container.</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>Reusable containers for sharps:</u> – delivered by vendor: Curtis Bay (Mr. Jordan Jaskolka @ 610-741-7517 upenn@curtisbaymws.com); contact Building Administrator to set up account.</p>	User must purchase.	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 EHRS LABORATORY SHARPS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (<https://ehrs.upenn.edu/health-safety/regulated-waste/sharps-glassware/laboratory-sharps-waste>)