

School of Engineering and Applied Science Laboratories Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories located in the SEAS Laboratories (Towne, Moore, Skirkanich, Singh, LRSM, VLEST, Hayden). 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. 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, 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 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 (needles, syringes, and blades)</u>: Dispose in a sharps container through the infectious waste stream.</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 $\frac{3}{4}$ full for housekeepers to remove. 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>: seal and dispose of in reusable sharps container.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste</u>: discard both in a 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: Advant-Edge Solutions (service@asiwaste.com). Contact EOS (eos@seas.upenn.edu) for more details and to opt into the program.</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u>: – user must purchase</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>)