

Veterinary School / VHUP Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories and clinical areas associated with the Veterinary buildings (Hill, Rosenthal, Old Vet Complex, & Ryan VHUP). 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), contact Steve Hawkins, Vet School Service Coordinator at 215-898-3300, or call EHRS at 215-898-4453

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.</p> <p>Line cardboard glassware boxes with heavy, clear 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 label "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. 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	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>Hill, Rosenthal, and Old Vet Complex:</u> Each generator (lab) must autoclave disposable infectious waste sharps, then place the waste in designated receptacles located in the autoclave room. SVM facilities personnel regularly collect the autoclaved waste, which is stored in Room H156 Hill where it is packaged for destruction.***</p> <p><u>Ryan VHUP Research Labs, In-patient, and Clinical Areas:</u> Each generator (lab) must autoclave disposable infectious sharps waste and place it in designated receptacles outside room 4109. Autoclaved waste is picked-up by housekeeping staff on a regular basis, taken to Room H156 Hill, and placed in red bag lined boxes, where it will be packaged for destruction.***</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> Each generator (lab) is responsible to discard containers, without prior autoclaving, into designated receptacles, as described above.</p>	<p><u>Hill, Rosenthal, and Old Vet Complex:</u> Each generator (lab) must autoclave infectious waste, then place the waste in designated receptacles located in the autoclave room. SVM facilities personnel regularly collect the autoclaved waste, which is stored in Room H156 Hill where it is packaged for destruction.***</p> <p><u>Ryan VHUP Research Labs, In-patient, and Clinical Areas:</u> Each generator (lab) must autoclave infectious sharps waste and place it in designated receptacles outside room 4109. Autoclaved waste is picked-up by housekeeping staff on a regular basis, taken to Room H156 Hill, and placed in red bag lined boxes, where it will be packaged for destruction.***</p>	<p>Autoclaved or disinfected liquid infectious waste can be pour down 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 autoclave bags.	User must purchase.

**NOTE: All sharps must be disposed in sharps containers at the time of generation and kept there until final destruction. For 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/resources/waste/bio/usedsharps.html>).

***NOTE: Wear proper PPE and place all infectious waste in secondary containment when transporting it within your building.