

## Veterinary School / VHUP Infectious Waste Disposal Guide\*

\* For research laboratories and clinical areas associated with the Veterinary School (Hill, Rosenthal, Old Vet Quadrangle, & Ryan VHUP). 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 contact Vet School Service Coordinator at 215-898-3300. Refer questions about the disposal of sharps to EHRS at 215-898-4453 or email the office at [ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu](mailto:ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu).

Container Type	Glassware/ Plasticware Waste Cardboard Box	Infectious Waste Sharps Container**	Infectious Waste Bags	Infectious Waste Liquid Containers
<b>Contents</b>	<p>Uncontaminated laboratory glassware and plasticware. Chemical bottles must be triple rinsed and label defaced. Trace amounts of chemical contamination allowed.</p> <p>Line cardboard glassware boxes with heavy, clear plastic liner.</p> <p><b>Do not use biohazard burn boxes or red/orange bags to collect glass/plasticware waste under any circumstances.</b></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>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>
<b>Reusable</b>	NO	<p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u> – YES</p> <p><u>Disposable sharps containers</u> – NO</p>	NO	YES
<b>Disposal Methods</b>	<p>Seal cardboard box when ¾ full for housekeepers to remove. <b>Do not overfill!</b></p>	<p><u>Disposable sharps containers:</u> seal and dispose of in RMW Infectious Waste totes, located in the autoclave room.</p> <p><u>Reusable sharps containers</u> are pickup up at their location by vendor and replaced with clean containers.</p> <p><u>Chemical-contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste:</u> <b>without</b> autoclaving, dispose of RMW Infectious Waste totes, located in or near the autoclave room.</p>	<p>Each generator (lab) must properly seal and dispose of in RMW Infectious Waste totes, located in the autoclave room. SVM facilities personnel regularly removes the infectious waste totes and places empty ones.</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>
<b>Container Source</b>	User must purchase.	<p><u>Disposable sharps containers:</u> – user must purchase</p> <p><u>Reusable containers for sharps:</u> – delivered by vendor: Advant-Edge Solutions (<a href="mailto:service@asiwaste.com">service@asiwaste.com</a>)</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>).