



# Laboratory Sharps Disposal

## Definitions:

“Sharps waste” means any device having acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including, but not limited to, hypodermic needles, syringes, razor blades and scalpel blades. Glass items contaminated with biohazards, such as pipettes, microscope slides and capillary tubes are also considered “sharps waste.”

## General Procedures:

- Under no circumstances may “sharps waste” be disposed of in the normal trash.
- Approved sharps containers are rigid, puncture-resistant, lidded, and leak-proof when sealed. Examples shown below.
- If you are using a sharps container with a regulated medical waste biohazard label to collect *non-biohazardous* sharps, the label must be completely covered up.
- For all sharps to be picked up by EH&S, you must note either that the contents have been autoclaved, or that the contents are not biologically contaminated.

## Sharps Contaminated with Hazardous Chemical Waste

1. Cover any biohazard labels with a hazardous waste label and list the chemical constituents.
2. Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website.

## Sharps Contaminated with Radioactive Materials

1. Cover any biohazard labels with a radioactive waste label and include the radioactive isotope.
2. Submit an online *Radioactive Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website.

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## Sharps Contaminated with Medical or Biohazardous Waste

1. Collect in a biohazardous sharps container that is red, rigid, puncture-resistant and leak proof.  
2a. Treat the sharps container for a minimum of 30 minutes at 121°C in an autoclave permitted for the treatment of medical waste and label it as “autoclaved.”

- Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website.

Note on the request that the material has been autoclaved.

- Alternatively, leave the autoclaved sharps container at Bio II 4106, LSB 2204, or LSB 4218, where it will be picked up without a request.

## OR

2b. Request pick-up of un-autoclaved sharps containers by the BNL Autoclave Core, which will autoclave and arrange for disposal. <https://www.cnsi.ucsb.edu/resources/facilities/autoclave-core>



Groups generating large quantities of biohazardous sharps waste must contract with a certified medical waste management company for pick-up and disposal.

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## Unused or Non-Contaminated Hypodermic Needles

1. Completely cover up any biohazard symbols and regulated medical waste labels prior to collection
2. Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website.





# Laboratory Glass Disposal

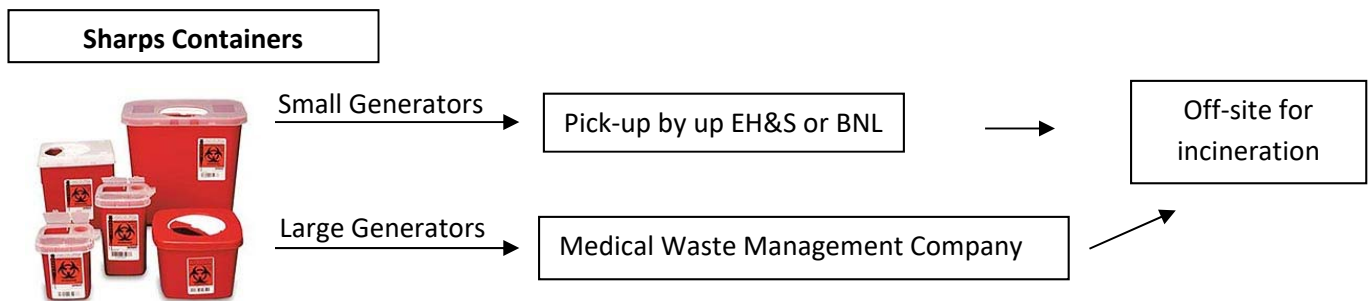
**Definition:** Laboratory glass is defined as equipment generally made of pyrex, borosilicate, and quartz glass used for scientific experiments. Examples of laboratory glass include, but are not limited to, the following: beakers, flasks, graduated cylinders, stirring rods, test tubes, microscope slides, glass pipettes, glass petri dishes, and glass vials. **Glass items contaminated with biohazards, such as pipettes, microscope slides, and capillary tubes are considered “sharps waste”. Under no circumstances should “sharps waste” be disposed of in the normal trash. (Sharps disposal procedures given above.)**

## Directions:

1. Prior to utilizing the cardboard lab glass box, duct tape the bottom to ensure the container is secure.
  - Labs can use a 32gal. red lidded cart to house cardboard lab glass box for ease of transport. *(Loose lab glass cannot be placed in red lidded carts.)*
2. Place unwanted or broken lab glass in the cardboard lab glass box. Non-lab glass, such as beverage containers should be placed in recycling receptacles, and not disposed along with laboratory glass waste.
3. When full, use duct tape to secure the lid to the body of the box. Be sure that the lid is securely fastened to the body of the box so the contents remain inside.
4. Bring the cardboard lab glass box down to your building’s red lidded carts and place inside and re-lock the cart.
  - If you are using the 32gal. cart to house the cardboard glass box, roll the cart down to the dumpster corral and leave for pick-up. Carts are serviced on Saturdays.

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## Lab Waste Management Program – Sharps Disposal Flowchart



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## Cardboard Lab Glass Boxes (AND Autoclaved Waste Bags)

