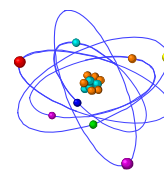


LABORATORY SAFETY FACT SHEET #3



Disposal of Sharps



Sharps are defined as any object having acute corners, edges or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, e.g. **syringe needles, razor blades, glass, etc.** These items **can not be disposed of in the normal lab trash**. Every year custodians are injured by sharps in trash cans. Therefore, please follow these guidelines:

1. Lab glassware not contaminated by hazardous materials (e.g. Pasteur pipettes)

Place glass into a labeled “*Sharps Only*” trash box or other sturdy container. Cardboard boxes specifically made and labeled for this purpose are available from scientific supply companies, or in most campus storerooms. When full, dispose of contents into the trash dumpster for your building - the custodial staff will **not** empty these.

2. Needles and razor blades not contaminated by hazardous materials

These are particularly dangerous and require precautions beyond those of glassware:

- Label a **rigid puncture-proof container** with the words “*Sharps Waste*” (note cardboard is not acceptable)
- Place all sharps into sharps container as they are generated
- When full, tape container closed or tightly lid containers prior to disposal
- Place sealed sharps containers directly into bldg. dumpster, or into the glass container noted above

3. Sharps contaminated by hazardous materials

If sharps are uncontaminated use the procedures above. For contaminated sharps follow the additional procedures here:

- **Sharps contaminated with chemicals** - A sharps container as described above should be labeled as “*Sharps contaminated with (chemical name)*”. Give to EH&S for disposal with other chemical wastes.
- **Sharps contaminated with radioactive materials-** A sharps container as described above should be properly labeled as “*Sharps contaminated with (isotope name)*”. Give to EH&S for disposal.
- **Sharps contaminated with biohazardous (infectious) materials-** Sharps contaminated by biohazardous materials must be placed in approved red plastic sharps container (available in Biological Sciences Storeroom). The sealed containers must be autoclaved before disposal and within 7 days of becoming filled. Place autoclaved container in an opaque bag and place into dumpster, or glass container noted above.

For further information contact the EH&S Laboratory Safety Specialist at x-4899.