



# 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, all of the following: hypodermic needles, syringes, razor blades and scalpel blades. Glass items contaminated with biohazards, such as pipettes, microscope slides and capillary tubes are also considered a “sharps waste.”

**Under no circumstances should “sharps waste” be disposed of in the normal trash. Sharps must be disposed of through Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) or a certified medical waste management company.**

## Sharps Contaminated with Hazardous Chemical Waste

1. Deface any biohazard symbols prior to collection of sharps.
2. Collect in a rigid, puncture-resistant container which, when sealed, is leak proof. Examples below.
3. Label the container with a hazardous waste label and include the chemical constituents.
4. Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website. Note on the request that the material is not biologically contaminated.

## Sharps Contaminated with Radioactive Materials

1. Collect in a rigid, puncture-resistant container which, when sealed, is leak proof. Examples below.
2. Deface any biohazard symbols, if present.
3. Label the container with a radioactive waste label and include the radioactive isotope.
4. Submit an online *Radioactive Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website. Note on the request that the material is not biologically contaminated.

## Sharps Contaminated with Medical or Biohazardous Waste

1. Collect in an approved biohazardous sharps container that is red, rigid, puncture-resistant and which, when sealed, is leak proof and cannot be opened without great difficulty - pictured below.
2. Autoclave your sharps container for a minimum of 30 minutes at 121°C and 15psi.
3. Label the sharps container with the words “autoclaved”.

## Autoclaved Sharps Waste Disposal Options

1. Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website. Note on the request that the material has been autoclaved.
2. Alternatively, leave your autoclaved sharps container at Bio II 4106, LSB 2204, or LSB 4218, where it will be picked up without a request.

**OR**

3. Large generators should contract with a certified medical waste management company to pickup your medical or biohazardous sharps waste.

## Unused or Non-Contaminated Hypodermic Needles

1. Deface any biohazard symbols prior to collection of unused or non-contaminated sharps.
2. Place in an approved biohazardous sharps container that is rigid, puncture-resistant and which, when sealed, is leak proof and cannot be opened without great difficulty - examples below.
3. Submit an online *Chemical Waste Collection Request* via the EH&S website. Note on the request that the material is not biologically contaminated.

Questions? Contact Bruce Carter 893-3293 or Matthew O’Carroll 893-2661, x2302



# Laboratory Glass Disposal

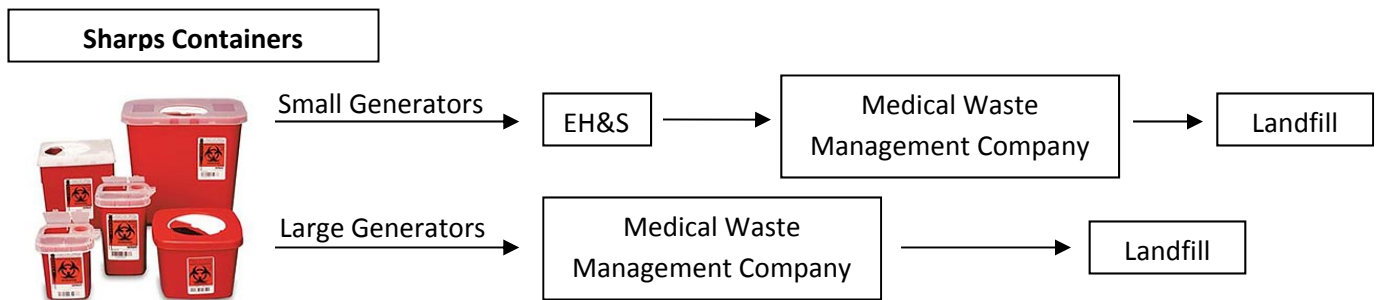
**Definition:** Laboratory glass is defined as equipment generally made of pyrex, borosilicate, and quartz glass used for scientific experiments. Examples of laboratory glass include, but are not limited to, the following: beakers, flasks, graduated cylinders, stirring rods, test tubes, microscope slides, 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 must be disposed through EH&S or a certified medical waste management company.

## 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 cart.)*
2. Place appropriate unwanted 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)



→ *Carts serviced by MarBorg on Saturdays* → Landfill