

# Laboratory Waste Disposal

## SHARPS

Items that present a significant threat to health and safety. This waste stream receives special handling and is decontaminated (for biological contamination) prior to landfill disposal.

**Sharps:** Items designed to cut or puncture skin and sharp items with human blood and body fluids or bacteria.

- Needles
- Syringes with attached needles
- Scalpels
- Razor blades
- Pasteur pipettes, pipettor tips, broken vials and laboratory slides that are contaminated with biologically hazardous material

**Container:** Closable, puncture resistant, leakproof plastic carboy with green *sharps* label. Do not fill these containers completely. Leave 5 cm clear space at the top.

### Disposal Procedure:

- When full, take to the red sharps collection hopper on the loading dock.
- Custodians will not remove sharps containers from labs or hallways.



## HAZARDOUS GLASS

Items that could cut or puncture skin or trash-can liners. This waste stream must be boxed to protect custodial staff. It goes directly to the landfill without any treatment.

**Hazardous Glass and Plastic:** Items that can **puncture, cut or scratch** if disposed of in normal trash containers.

- Pasteur pipettes
- Other pipettes and tips (glass or plastic)
- Slides and cover slips
- Broken or fragile glass including chemically contaminated glass *unless* the chemical poses a significant hazard.
- Bags of misc. plasticware that has been autoclaved to remove bio contamination.
- Syringe bodies (without needles)



**Container:** Sturdy and leakproof with *Hazardous Glass* label.

**Either:** Plastic lined cardboard box.

Tape seams with heavy duty tape to contain waste.

Limit weight to 20 lbs.

**Or:** Plastic carboy/jug with sealed lid.



### Disposal Procedure:

- Empty any chemicals to a suitable chemical waste container and dispose via surplus chemicals pickup.
- Autoclave before boxing if contaminated with infectious agents, recombinant organisms or human blood.
- Seal container closed.
- Place in hallway next to your lab door for custodians to remove OR take it to the labeled hopper on the loading dock yourself.



## OTHER NON HAZARDOUS TRASH

Items that are neither sharp nor contaminated. This waste stream is handled directly by custodians and goes to landfill without further treatment.

**Items that present NO HAZARD if disposed of as normal trash:** Unbroken glass and plastic that has been washed or decontaminated so as to present no chemical or biological hazard

- Petri dishes and plastic labware
- Weighing boats
- Sturdy test and centrifuge tubes
- *Washed, uncapped* empty bottles
- Paper towels and gloves that have no significant contamination.



**Container:** Lab trash can with plastic liner.

### Disposal Procedure:

- Place waste in lab trash can for custodians to remove to dumpster.
- Place large ( $\geq 2$  liter) bottles next to trash can.

## WASTE OR SURPLUS CHEMICALS

All chemicals or anything contaminated with chemicals posing a **significant** hazard.

**Container:** Sturdy and leakproof.

### Disposal Procedure:

- Complete a surplus chemicals form.
- Call UW Safety department (2-8769) to arrange for collection the following Wednesday.