

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 (≥ 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.