

Laboratory Sharp Materials Disposal

MEDICAL SHARPS

Items designed to cut or puncture skin
May or may not be biohazardous

- Needles
- Syringes with needles
- Scalpels
- Tissue punch
- Lancet
- Razor blades
- Hematocrit tubes



DISPOSAL CONTAINER

- Sharps container meeting OSHA & DNR standards
- Labeled with Biohazard symbol
- Lidded, engineered to not spill contents when used properly
- Puncture-proof, Leak-proof



DISPOSAL PROCEDURE *

- Carefully dispose medical sharps into container
- Fill to the marked "fill line"
- Never overfill or force objects into a sharps container
- When full, dispose into MERI collection bin in your area/building
- MERI will inactivate and dispose appropriately
- Disinfection of items or autoclaving of full sharps containers is unnecessary



****BSL 3 laboratories must inactivate medical sharps prior to disposal into MERI bins; follow the Lab's BSL3 Manual**

NON-MEDICAL SHARPS & SHARP LABWARE

Labware or items which may cut skin or puncture waste bags when discarded

May or may not be biohazardous

- Serological pipets
- Pipet tips
- Pasteur pipettes
- Slides and coverslips
- Broken glass or plastic
- Fragile glass labware



DISPOSAL CONTAINER

Sturdy, leakproof container

- Cardboard box with 1-2 plastic liners or autoclavable bin with 1-2 autoclave bags
- Limit to 20 lbs (9 kg) full weight



DISPOSAL PROCEDURE *

- Empty item of contents by appropriate disposal method
- If biohazardous, decontaminate before disposal or dispose in autoclavable container
Autoclave when full then proceed as below.
- When disposal containers are full, close inner liner, close box securely
- Label the box e.g. "Glass for Disposal"
- Attach "OK to Trash" label
- Set in appropriate location for custodial pick up for regular trash disposal



EMPTY CONTAINERS

Unbroken glass or plastic containers
No biohazard present

- Petri dishes, decontaminated
- Unbroken, plastic tubes
- Empty bottles
- Microtiter plates, decontaminated



DISPOSAL CONTAINER

Sturdy trash container



DISPOSAL PROCEDURE *

- Must not have biohazards, radioactive material or gross chemicals present at time of disposal
- Empty item of contents, and rinse, if appropriate
- Must not have sharp edges which may puncture waste container or skin
- NO BROKEN GLASS
- Dispose into trash container
- Place trash containers in regular trash or in appropriate location for custodial pick-up for trash disposal



* Disposal procedures may be different in some campus buildings. OK to Trash stickers are not used at all campus buildings; follow your building's disposal procedures