Sharps and Laboratory Glass Disposal

**NEEDLES AND OTHER SHARPS**

**Sharps:** Items designed to cut or puncture skin and sharp items contaminated with human blood and body fluids.
- Needles and syringes with needles
- Lancets
- Scalpels and razor blades
- Contaminated broken vials, hematocrit tubes, Pasteur pipettes and laboratory slides

**OSHA-Approved Sharps Container:**
Closable, puncture resistant, leakproof, plastic sharps container.
**Obtain from:** Laboratory supply/safety catalog.

**Disposal Procedure:**
- Collect in an OSHA-approved sharps container.
- When full take to a sharps collection area and deposit container in the red plastic collection can. (Ask your building manager for the location)

**HAZARDOUS GLASS AND PLASTIC**

**Hazardous Glass and Plastic:** Items that can injure if disposed of in normal trash containers.
- Pasteur pipettes
- Other pipettes and tips
- Uncontaminated slides and cover slips
- Broken or fragile glass

**Sturdy, Leakproof Cardboard Boxes:**
- Use plastic liner.
- Double box or tape seams to contain waste.
- Use packing tape, not lab tape or masking tape.
- Limit weight to 20 lbs.
- Limit bottom size to 12”x12”
- Use discarded boxes or obtain boxes from a lab supply catalog.

**Disposal Procedure:**
- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate first.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals and drain liquids.
- Tape box closed.
- Mark box with the words “Hazardous Glass for Disposal” and your room number.
- Place in hallway next to your lab door.

**EMPTY BOTTLES, OTHER GLASS AND PLASTIC**

**Unbroken Glass and Plastic:** Items that present no hazard if disposed of as normal trash.
- Petri dishes (decontaminated)
- Sturdy test and centrifuge tubes
- Empty bottles

**Regular Lab Wastebasket**

**Disposal Procedure:**
- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate first.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals, rinse and drain liquids.
- Place in wastebasket
- Place large (4 liter) bottles next to wastebasket.

Some buildings (for example, Chemistry and the University Hospital) may have their own disposal methods. Contact your building manager.

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