Laboratory Waste Disposal

Sharps
Items 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, pipette tips, broken vials and laboratory slides that are contaminated with biologically hazardous material

**Container:** Closable, puncture resistant, leak-proof 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 hazardous waste collection room off 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 pipetted 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 miscellaneous plasticware that has been autoclaved to remove bio-contamination
  - Syringe bodies (without needles)

**Container:** Sturdy and leak-proof 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 into a suitable chemical waste container and dispose via hazardous waste 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 OR take it down to the loading dock yourself

Other Non-Hazardous Trash
Items that is 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 of Surplus Chemicals
All chemicals or anything contaminated with chemicals posing a **significant** hazard.

**Container:** Sturdy, leak-proof, and compatible with the waste.

**Disposal Procedure:**
- Complete a surplus form or hazardous waste tag
- Call CWU EH&S department (x2252) to arrange for collection or place into hazardous waste storage room

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