

## SOP: Sharps Waste



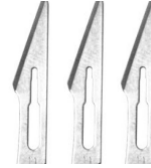
Needles



Syringes



Razor blades



Scalpel blades

*Sharps waste is regulated by state law and must not be disposed of in the regular waste stream.* The term "sharps" refers to items used to puncture or cut body parts and that, in a waste container, can cause punctures or cuts to waste handlers. Therefore, all sharps waste must be placed in appropriate sharps containers and decontaminated prior to disposal.

### Always sharps waste:

- needles, including syringes with needles and IV tubing with needles attached
- syringes without needles when removed from their original sterile containers
- lancets
- scalpel blades

Sharps waste *only if contaminated* with biohazardous material (including recombinant or synthetic DNA/RNA):

- broken glass
- razor blades
- fragile glass tubes, vials, or ampoules including glass Pasteur pipettes
- glass slides and cover slips

### Sharps Waste Packaging

All sharps waste as defined above must be placed in **red plastic sharps containers labeled with the biohazard symbol**. Sharps containers are available for purchase from Biochemistry stores or from laboratory supply vendors. Use appropriately sized sharps containers and do not fill more than two-thirds full. **When no more than two-thirds full** close the lid and place autoclave tape over the lid and sides. Do not block vent holes. **Label container with Principal Investigator (PI) name and room number.**



All sharps containers must be decontaminated prior to disposal regardless of whether the items are contaminated with biohazardous material. Refer to the [Biohazardous Waste Flow Chart](#) for your location for treatment and disposal information. Remember that sharps waste must be kept separate from other waste streams at all times.

### Site Specific SOP:

- Place "no more than 2/3rds full" sharps container in the autoclave room in CD046 and **let Van or Jialin** know you have done so.
- Robin, Van or Jialin will autoclave the container and transport it to the J/K wing loading dock/trash compactor room for disposal in the sharps container receptacle. (Robin has the code to the trash compactor room; for questions regarding access, email HS BUILDING MANAGEMENT [hsbuild@uw.edu](mailto:hsbuild@uw.edu)).
- If a sharps container is punctured or has needles sticking out of it, the entire container must be placed inside a larger sharps container prior to treatment and disposal. Do not attempt to empty a sharps container that has been punctured!