

SOP: Sharps Waste



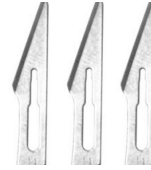
Needles



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 that 2/3rds full" sharps containers in the autoclave room CD046 and let Carol know you have done so.
- Carol will autoclave the container and transport it to the T-wing for placement in the custodial pick-up zone.

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!