

Medical School Laboratory Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories located in School of Medicine buildings. Procedures may vary in the hospital, clinical areas or other University spaces.

For more information on infectious waste consult the University's Biological Safety Manual (http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/programs/bio/bio_manual.html), or call EHRS at 215-898-4453

Container Type	Glassware Buckets	Infectious Waste Sharps Container**	Infectious Waste Autoclave Bags	Infectious Waste Liquid Containers	Infectious Waste 55 Gallon Drums
Contents	Uncontaminated laboratory glassware and plasticware. Chemical bottles must be triple rinsed and label defaced.	<p><u>Infectious waste sharps including:</u> All needles and syringes; broken or unbroken glass and plasticware that has contacted infectious agents or was used in animal or human patient care or treatment, including plastic pipettes and other used plasticware that is recognizable after autoclaving or made of plastic that shatters on breakage or is considered breakable by the investigator.</p> <p><u>Chemical contaminated sharps waste:</u> Segregate from other sharps into special sharps containers and label "Chemical Contaminated Sharps Waste-Do Not Autoclave" (http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/resources/waste/chem/ccspolicy.html)</p> <p><u>Non-infectious Sharps:</u> Dispose in a sharps container through the <i>infectious waste</i> stream. Containers of non-infectious sharps may be discarded as <i>infectious waste without prior autoclaving if the label is defaced</i>.</p> <p>NOTE: Non-infectious sharps may be commingled with infectious waste sharps or chemical contaminated sharps waste. If this is done, they must be managed as described for the respective category of sharps.</p>	All contaminated laboratory items <u>NOT</u> considered sharps, including used plasticware that is deformed after autoclaving or made of polyethylene (PE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and other thermoplastic polymers provided they do not shatter on breakage or are considered unbreakable by the investigator.	Infectious waste fluids (volumes greater than 20 cc).	<p>Infectious waste that has been autoclaved.</p> <p>Chemical contaminated sharps containers that have <u>NOT</u> been autoclaved (http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/resources/waste/chem/ccspolicy.html)</p> <p>Non-infectious sharps containers** that have <u>NOT</u> been autoclaved (with label defaced).</p>
Reusable	YES	NO	NO	<p>YES, if labware and liquid is autoclaved before pouring into a sanitary sewer drain; or if liquid is disinfected before pouring into a sanitary sewer drain and labware is autoclaved.</p> <p>NO, if disposable liquid infectious waste container is used. Containers must be leakproof, impervious to moisture, of sufficient strength, rigid, capable of being tightly lidded or stoppered, puncture and break resistant. In addition, disposable containers must be red and marked with the universal biohazard symbol.</p>	YES
Disposal Methods	Housekeepers remove regularly.	<p><u>Infectious sharps waste:</u> Autoclave containers and discard in 55 gallon infectious waste drums.</p> <p><u>Chemical contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste (with label defaced):</u> Discard both <u>without</u> autoclaving into 55 gallon infectious waste drums.</p>	Autoclave waste bags and discard in 55 gallon infectious waste drums.	Autoclave disposable liquid infectious waste containers and discard in 55 gallon infectious waste drums.	Space Planning and Operations removes regularly.
Container Source	Space Planning and Operations (8-8000)	User must purchase.	User must purchase.	User must purchase.	Space Planning and Operations (8-8000)

** For more details on how to properly sort and manage disposal of *all* laboratory sharps waste, consult the EHRS LABORATORY SHARPS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (<http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/resources/waste/bio/usedsharps.html>)