

Veterinary School / VHUP Infectious Waste Disposal Guide*

* For research laboratories and clinical areas associated with the Veterinary buildings. Procedures may vary in 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), contact the Vet School Service Coordinator at 215-898-3300, or call EHRS at 215-898-4453

Container Type	Cardboard Glassware Containers	Infectious Waste Sharps Container**	Infectious Waste Autoclave Bags	Infectious Waste Liquid Containers
Contents	<p>Uncontaminated laboratory glassware and plasticware. Chemical bottles must be triple rinsed and label defaced.</p> <p>If necessary, line cardboard glassware boxes with clear plastic bags.</p> <p>Do not use biohazard boxes or red/orange bags under any circumstances.</p>	<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 infectious waste stream. Containers of non-infectious sharps may be discarded as infectious waste without prior autoclaving if the label is defaced.</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>	<p>All contaminated laboratory items NOT 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.</p>	<p>Infectious waste fluids (volumes greater than 20 cc).</p>
Reusable	NO	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. Disposable containers must be red and marked with the universal biohazard symbol.</p>
Disposal Methods	Housekeepers remove regularly.	<p><u>Rosenthal/Old Vet Complex & Research Laboratories in VHUP:</u> Each generator must autoclave infectious sharps waste, take the autoclaved waste to Room B117 VHUP and place it in biohazard disposal boxes.***</p> <p><u>VHUP In-patient and Clinical Areas:</u> A designated individual manages infectious sharps waste, takes it to Room B117 VHUP and places it in biohazard disposal boxes.***</p> <p><u>Chemical contaminated sharps waste and Non-infectious Sharps waste (with label defaced):</u> Each generator is responsible to discard containers, <u>without</u> prior autoclaving, into biohazard disposal boxes in Room B117 VHUP.***</p>	<p><u>Rosenthal/Old Vet Complex & Research Laboratories in VHUP:</u> Each generator must autoclave infectious waste, take the autoclaved waste to Room B117 VHUP and place it in biohazard disposal boxes.***</p> <p><u>VHUP In-patient and Clinical Areas:</u> A designated individual manages infectious waste, takes it to Room B117 VHUP and places it in biohazard disposal boxes.***</p>	Autoclave disposable liquid infectious waste containers and discard in biohazard disposal boxes in Room B117 VHUP.***
Container Source	User must purchase.	User must purchase.	User must purchase.	User must purchase.

**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>

***NOTE: Wear proper PPE and place all infectious waste in secondary containment when transporting it within your building.