

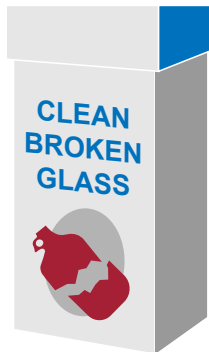
Sharps are devices or objects with corners, edges, or projections capable of cutting or piercing the skin or regular waste bags. Local and state laws regulate disposal of sharps to protect laboratory employees and waste handlers from both physical and contamination hazards that sharps pose.

Laboratory sharps include: needles, scalpels, razor blades, glass pipettes, broken glassware, glass capillary tubes, microscope slides, broken wafers, and other physically hazardous sharp objects. Designated sharps containers for contaminated and uncontaminated sharps are discussed below.

LABORATORY GLASSWARE

Collect clean or decontaminated broken or disposable lab glassware in plastic-lined, rigid disposal boxes (available through USC-approved vendors). DO NOT place needles, syringes, or lancets in these containers.

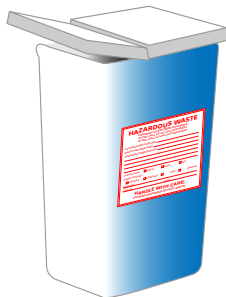
- Glass waste must be contamination-free and NOT contain free-flowing liquids.
- Triple rinse and deface glass bottles/vials prior to disposal. Refer to page 9.10 of the [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) for more information.
- DO NOT overfill boxes or fiber drums.
- Label box "Clean Broken Glass" and set aside for the custodians to collect.



CHEMICALLY CONTAMINATED SHARPS

Collect chemically contaminated sharps/broken glass (e.g., Pasteur pipettes with silica, heavy metals, acutely toxic hazardous materials, or other particularly hazardous chemicals) in a rigid, leak-proof, and puncture-resistant container. Request containers via [EHSA](#). Consult the [EHSA SOP Waste Pickup + Supplies](#) for more information.

- Apply an adhesive waste label or waste tag to identify the containers. Adhesive labels/tags are available through USC Hazmat or Lab Safety inspectors.
- If a RED sharps container is used, ensure that biohazard symbols, radiation symbols, and other labels are removed or defaced.
- Request a pickup via [EHSA](#) before 270 days of the accumulation date or when container is 80% full.



What I need to do...

- Select the appropriate sharps disposal container for sharps waste.
- Request a hazardous waste pickup via EHSA or (323) 442-2200.
- **Questions?** Contact labsafety@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200.

BIOHAZARD CONTAMINATED SHARPS

Collect sharps contaminated with biohazards or radioactive materials (e.g., needles, coverslips and slides, and glass Pasteur pipettes) in a RED sharps container. Request containers via [EHSA](#). Consult the [EHSA SOP Waste Pickup + Supplies](#) for more information.

- The RED sharps container must be:
 - Rigid and leak-proof
 - Puncture-resistant and closeable
 - Difficult to open upon closure
 - Identified with a biohazard symbol
- DO NOT fill beyond the "fill line"; sharps must NOT protrude through the container opening.
- Request a pickup via [EHSA](#).



NOTE: Biohazardous plastic pipette tips and serological pipettes can be safely disposed in a sharps container or a red biohazard bag. A red bag is preferred for large quantities.

Questions? Contact Lab Safety labsafety@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200.

REFERENCES

[Chemical Hygiene Plan](#)

[EH&S Hazardous Waste Management](#)

