

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

SHARPS SAFETY & DISPOSAL



For more information review the EHS compliance guidelines for handling and disposing of Hazardous Waste and Sharps & Infectious Waste.
<https://purdue.edu/ehps/rem/programs/index.html>

What are Sharps?

- Items capable of puncturing, cutting, or abrading the skin, such as:
 - Glass: pipettes, broken bottles and chipped beakers
 - Blades: scalpels, razor, saw blades
 - Needles: needles, syringes with needles, 3D printer nozzle cleaning needles

How to Handle & Store Sharps

- Use appropriate PPE for the task
- Do not re-cap needles
- Use an appropriate puncture proof container:
 - Plastic sharps box with safety flap for needles and blades.
 - Cardboard box with liner for broken glass or a plastic container.
 - DO not use household or food containers.
- Do not overfill a container. Broken glass boxes should not exceed 20 pounds.
- Ensure sharps are not protruding through the container sides or lid.



Administrative Operations

Sharps Disposal

- There are 3 categories when disposing of sharps: chemical contaminated, biological contaminated and uncontaminated (clean).
- Chemically and biologically contaminated sharps require pickup by EHS.
 - Submit a chemical waste pickup request when any chemicals (e.g. solvents, acids, bases) were used. Enter the type of sharps and all trace chemical contaminants.
 - Submit a biological waste request when only exposed to biological materials (e.g. animal tissue, plants, bacteria, infectious organisms).
 - Clean broken glass. Proper broken glass collection box should be taped and marked as "clean glass, safe for disposal" then placed near trash receptacles for pickup by building services
- Ensure container lids are properly closed and secure.
- Label and package as required by the type of contamination (chemical, biological or uncontaminated).



Plastic sharps containers & broken glass boxes can be purchased from one of the Fisher Stores on campus or contact your department purchasing agent.