

Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide

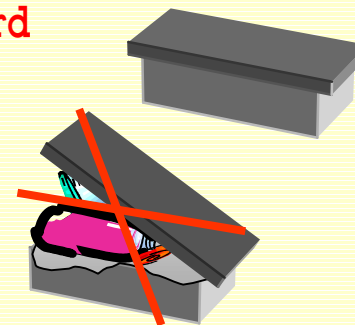


AUTOCLAVE ROOMS

Guidelines for disposing of items used in Laboratories

- 1) Autoclave rooms are for laboratory waste only.
- 2) Do not place office waste or other miscellaneous waste in these rooms.
- 3) Do not use the autoclave rooms for storage.
- 4) Choose autoclave pans and liner bags appropriate for the task.
- 5) **DO NOT OVERFILL** pans. Lids should always fit **FLUSH** on top of the pan to facilitate safe stacking and transportation. Contact SRP at x3202 for instructions on handling items too large to fit in available discard pans.
- 6) **NEVER** use hands to force overfilled bags into autoclave pans.
- 7) Add ~250ml-500ml water to autoclave bag or discard pan prior to removal from laboratory.

For situations not addressed in this outline, please contact
Laboratory Safety Branch/Laboratory Operations Section
(404-639-2754, 404-639-2453) or
Scientific Resources Program (404-639-3202)



I) Reuseable Laboratory Items:

DO NOT MIX REUSEABLE ITEMS WITH DISPOSABLE ONES.

☞ Not Contaminated

- 1) Place in metal pan. Wire baskets may be used only for returning the liter glass bottles for sterile water to Glassware. Items too large to fit in available pans should be placed on the appropriate shelf or as directed by SRP (404 639-3202).
- 2) Add "Building and Room Number" and "Do Not Autoclave" labels.
- 3) Cover and leave in autoclave room for pick-up.

☞ Contaminated **Must be Autoclaved and NEVER placed in general waste**

- 1) Place in metal pan and add water to 250ml - 500ml.
- 2) Cover pan and add "Building and Room Number" label and autoclave tape on the same end of the pan.
- 3) Place in autoclave room on the appropriate rack for decontamination and pick-up.
- 4) For items too large for a covered pan, contact Scientific Resources Program (404 639-3202) or the autoclave room floor representative for specific instructions.

REUSEABLE LAB
ITEMS



II) Single-use/Disposable Laboratory Items:

Must be Autoclaved and **NEVER** placed in general waste

Includes:

- *pipette tips
- *pipette tip boxes
- *all pipettes
- *flasks, dishes, etc.
- *plastic tubes
- *commercial/non-reuseable-glass containers
- *plastic-backed diapers
- *aluminum foil from laboratory glassware
- *"weigh boats"
- *tongue depressors, etc.
- ***gloves, gowns, masks, etc. contaminated or not**

- 1) Place waste in metal pans lined with an autoclave bag.
(If ONLY soft items, omit pan)
- 2) Add water and fold bag loosely and cover pan.
- 3) Add "Building and Room Number" and autoclave tape.
- 4) Place in autoclave room for decontamination and pick-up.

SINGLE-USE DISPOSABLE
LAB ITEMS



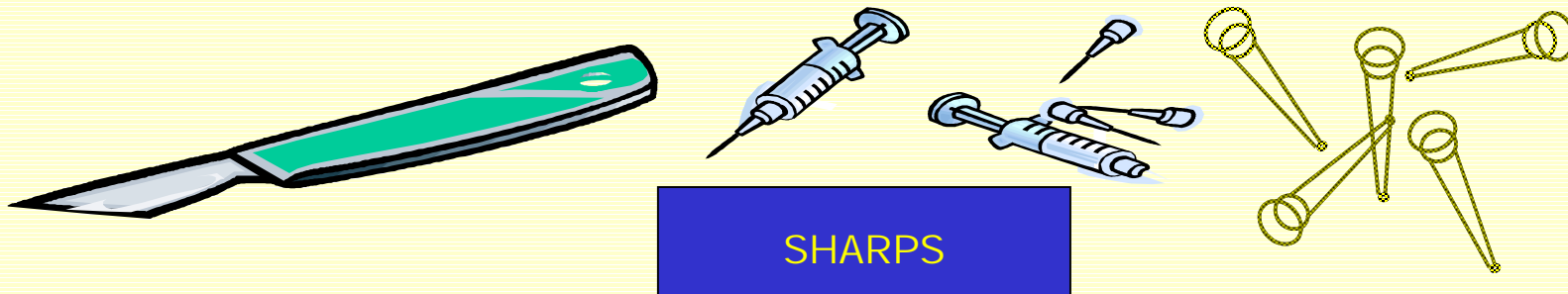
III) All Sharps

Must be Autoclaved and **NEVER**
placed in general waste

(Includes ALL disposable syringes, needles, scalpels, etc. and may include pipette tips, glass slides, glass vials, etc.)

- 1) Place "sharps" and disposable syringes in approved **red Sharps Container** (obtained from Laboratory Services).
- 2) Add water (~20ml), "Building and Room Number" label and autoclave tape.
- 3) Place "Sharps Container" in metal pan and leave in autoclave room for decontamination and pick-up.

Neither syringes nor needles may be sent to the landfill. They **must** be discarded in "Sharps" Containers only, not in regular trash or autoclaved discard.

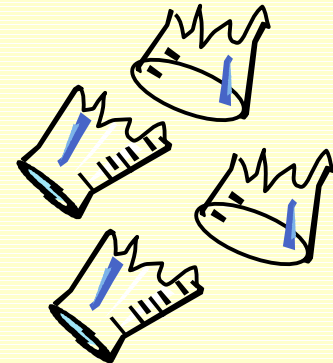


IV) BROKEN GLASS:

Must be Autoclaved and **NEVER** placed in general waste.
Do not use cardboard "Broken Glass" boxes.

- 1) Small pieces of broken glass may be disposed into the **Sharps Containers**. If the broken glass is contaminated, it should be treated in the same manner as any contaminated sharps item. It is prudent to wipe the top of the **Sharps Containers** with 10% Bleach solution or other appropriate disinfectant after inserting any contaminated item or at the completion of a task.
- 2) Large broken glass items:
 - a) Should be placed in a discard pan lined with an autoclave bag and labeled with "Building/Room Number" sticker.
 - b) The lid for the discard pan should be secured with several inches of autoclave tape.
 - c) The words **CAUTION: BROKEN GLASS** should be written on the autoclave tape along the top of the discard pan in large letters to alert the SRP staff to take extra care in handling this discard pan.

Broken Glass



V) Pasteur Pipettes

Must be Autoclaved and NEVER placed in general waste.

- 1) Short-tipped and Long-tipped Pasteur pipettes may be placed in the red Sharps Containers containing ~1" of appropriate disinfectant for decontamination and disposal.



It is prudent to wipe the top of the Sharps Containers with 10% Bleach solution after inserting any contaminated item or at the completion of a task involving infectious agents. Loosely recap container when not in use.

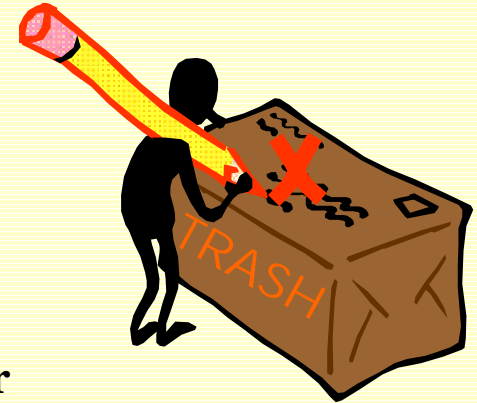
- 2) Short-tipped and Long-tipped Pasteur pipettes may be collected into a plastic beaker containing ~1" of appropriate disinfectant.
 - a) Upon completion of the procedure, the beaker of pipettes may be carefully decanted into a discard pan lined with an autoclave bag.
 - b) Special care should be taken to avoid overfilling the discard pan.
 - c) Each user should check to assure that all pipette tips are flat in the pan and not protruding upward.
 - d) The discard pan should be labeled **Caution: Pasteur Pipettes** to alert Scientific Resources personnel.

Pasteur Pipettes

VI) Handling "Other" Waste (Examples)

Shipping containers

- 1) Decontaminate if necessary *i.e.*, autoclave or wipe with appropriate disinfectant.
- 2) Deface Biohazard Sticker.
- 3) Mark outer cardboard container "Trash".
- 4) Place in general waste.
- 5) Send inner decontaminated plastic container to Yvonne Stifel, Scientific Resources, MS-C21.



Gloves

- 1) **All** latex, vinyl and nitrile laboratory gloves must be autoclaved regardless of use.
- 2) Household-type utility gloves may be discarded in general trash unless they have been used in the laboratory and are contaminated.



OTHER WASTE
ITEMS

VII) Handling Contaminated Equipment for Repair or Excess to CDC Warehouse

☞ Refrigerators, Freezers, Incubators, ect.



- 1) Equipment must be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant by the laboratory staff.
- 2) A Decontamination Sticker CDC 0.593 (now available in the CDC Warehouse catalog number 12160) must be signed (no photocopies please) and affixed to the decontaminated equipment.
- 3) For excess to the CDC Warehouse remove or deface Biohazard stickers and names/phone numbers of laboratory contacts.

☞ Biosafety Cabinets to be moved

- 1) Contact Laboratory Operations Section (LOS, 404 639-2453) for risk assessment.
- 2) Someone from the LOS must pre-approve ALL biosafety cabinet moves.
- 3) No biosafety cabinet will be moved until an "Approved To Move" sticker signed by LOS is attached to the cabinet.

Contaminated
Equipment

VIII) Empty Chemical Containers

Non-Hazardous Chemicals

Contact Rob Morones at 404 639-3331 or
Hayden Hardie at 404 639-3872
for specific instructions.

Hazardous Chemicals

Contact Barbara Loggins at 404 639-3041
for specific instructions.

EMPTY
CHEMICAL CONTAINERS