

Spotlight On Safety

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Sharps Safety

Sharps waste is composed of instruments used to puncture, cut, or scrape body parts, that when disposed of can puncture/ cut regular waste bags and endanger waste handlers. Don't throw sharps containers or sharps directly into garbage cans or dumpsters. Don't pick up broken glass with your hands; wear cut-resistance gloves, use tongs, or a broom and dustpan. Collect broken glass as carefully and completely as possible.

Needles, Syringes, and Blades

- Do NOT re-cap needles.
- All sharps not chemically or radioactively contaminated go into rigid, puncture and leak resistant containers that are labeled with the words "Sharps Waste," with the international biohazard symbol or the word "BIOHAZARD" and with room and building number.
- If they contain hazardous chemicals, they go into rigid, puncture and leak resistant containers that are labeled with the words "Sharps Waste," with the international biohazard symbol or the word "BIOHAZARD," and a UCR waste label that can be generated on the [WASTE app](#). Container must be closed for pick up.
- If they contain radioactive materials, you need to comply with the labeling storage and disposal requirements for radioactive waste.

Laboratory Glass

- If contaminated with non-hazardous materials, goes into a container marked "Sharp Objects" or "Broken Glass" and placed in the building dumpster.
- If contaminated with a biohazardous agent, decontaminate by autoclaving (with autoclave tape as proof that the glass was autoclaved) and disposing in the "Broken Glass" waste container. Alternatively, if autoclaving is not an option, place into rigid, puncture and leak resistant containers that are labeled with the words "Sharps Waste," with the international biohazard symbol or the word "BIOHAZARD" and with room and building number.
- If contaminated with toxic or hazardous chemicals, goes into rigid, puncture and leak resistant containers that are labeled with the words "Sharps Waste," and a UCR waste label that can be generated on the WASTE app. Container must be closed for pick up.
- If contaminated with radioactive waste, you need to comply with the labeling storage and disposal requirements for radioactive waste.

Contact EH&S at 951-827-5528 or www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information.