

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 05-007	
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SHARPS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

Sharps are instruments that can puncture, cut, or scrape body parts. These include, but are not limited to syringes, needles, scalpel blades, razor blades, wires, Pasteur pipettes, lancets, and other sharp metal laboratory waste. Sharps are puncture hazards to laboratory staff and waste handlers.

All sharps must be disposed in puncture-resistant impervious rigid containers with self-closing lids. Do not fill sharps containers greater than 2/3 full. No sharps should be thrown in the regular trash.

Sharps contaminated with biohazardous materials

- Sharps must be placed in a red sharps container
- Sharps container must have biohazard label
- Sharps container must be disposed as biological waste (packed in biological waste box with completed red Biological Waste label, write "CONTAINS SHARPS" on label and box)

Sharps contaminated with chemical materials

- Sharps contaminated with chemicals should be placed in a sharps container
- Any biohazard markings on the container should be removed/covered
- Place a completed orange Chemical Waste label on the container (label as "NON-BIOLOGICAL SHARPS")
- Dispose sharps container through University's Chemical Waste Program
- Sharps container should be packed separately from other chemical waste

Additionally, any sharps that are not contaminated with biohazardous or chemical materials should still be properly containerized. Dispose these types of sharps as biological waste.

If you have any questions about the disposal of sharps, please call Environmental Health and Safety at 412-624-9505.