

LABORATORY GLASS DISPOSAL

General Guidance

- **Discard** laboratory glass into an appropriate glass disposal bin.
 - **Line** bin with a sturdy plastic bag; **Do not** use a biohazard waste bag (red, orange, etc.).
 - **Purchase** bins through Fisher or VWR. **Alternatively**, an undamaged corrugated cardboard box (lined and appropriately labeled) may be used.
- **Never** discard any glass into the regular trash.
- **Do not** place any laboratory glass into a **recycling** bin; Consider **repurposing** wherever possible.
- **Do not overfill** glass disposal bins.
 - **Seal** bins when they are ¾ full by **pulling up the center** cardboard flap and taping.
 - **Dispose** sealed bins with regular trash.
- **Utilize** tools (**broom and dustpan or forceps**) to handle broken glass. **Never** handle broken glass directly with your hands.

Injuries and Exposures

- **Wash** the wound with soap and water.
- **Seek** appropriate medical attention.
- Dial 911 or **Alert** Campus Police (828.262.8000) if necessary.
- **Contact** PI/Supervisor.
- **Notify** the IBC if exposure involved recombinant material.



Triple Rinse with appropriate solvent e.g., water, acetone, ethanol).



Deface the Label with permanent marker.



Discard into glass disposal bin.



Disposal Guidance



YES

- ✓ **Uncontaminated glassware:**
 - ✓ Empty containers
 - ✓ Pasteur pipettes
 - ✓ Serological pipettes
 - ✓ Microscope slides
 - ✓ Plates
 - ✓ Tubes
 - ✓ Flasks
 - ✓ Beakers
 - ✓ Plastics with sharps edges (e.g., serological pipettes)



NO

- ✗ **Contaminated glassware**:**
 - ✗ Biological Materials
 - ✗ Infectious Agents
 - ✗ Recombinant Material
 - ✗ Chemical Agents
 - ✗ Radioactive Material
- ✗ **Needles**
- ✗ **Syringes** with or without needles
- ✗ **Blades** (scalpels, razor blades)
- ✗ **Mercury-containing** materials (thermometers)

* **Intact** laboratory glass waste that has been contaminated with biological materials and certain chemicals may be placed into a glass disposal bin following appropriate decontamination:

- Biological contamination – **Autoclave** (121°C/15 psi/60 mins) or **treat** with 10% bleach or an EPA-registered disinfectant (e.g., Vindicator).
- Chemical contamination** – **Rinse** with appropriate solvent; collect rinsate if needed. **Note:** If the original chemical is an **acutely toxic (P-Listed) chemical*****, the container must be disposed of as chemical waste and **should not be rinsed nor repurposed**.

Broken contaminated laboratory glass should be handled as other waste of the same hazard:

- Biological contamination – **Discard** directly into a sharps container.
- Chemical contamination – **Dispose** of through your normal chemical waste stream.
- Radiation contamination – **Treat** as other radioactive waste.