**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.

**Disposal Guidance**

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

- **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.

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

Deface the Label with permanent marker.

Discard into glass disposal bin.