

# UCSC Glassware and Sharps Disposal Matrix

Responsibility Color key:

**Environmental Health & Safety Only Disposal:** Light yellow indicates items are **regulated waste** and require disposal directly through UCSC EH&S or by an approved vendor. *Never throw any of these items into the regular trash.* Dispose within the time frame indicated: Max. Accumulation Time Allowed

**Custodial Service May Dispose:** Custodial service personnel will remove from lab for disposal provided items are properly managed.

**Lab Personnel Must Dispose:** Lab personnel must treat and dispose in accordance with UCSC Biohazardous Waste Sterilization procedures (see Q&A section).



**EH&S Lab Safety Services**  
Dispose of Sharps Safely!

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharps Waste</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Includes syringes (with or without needle), razor blades, scalpels, and any other object having acute ridged corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Laboratory Glassware Plastic Pipettes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defined as <b>INTACT</b> or <b>BROKEN</b> glass including beakers, graduated cylinders, flasks, vials, glass and plastic pipettes, etc.  (Not to exceed 25 lbs)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regular Trash (Solid Debris)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Includes all other solid waste including, plastic pipette tips, Q-tips, gloves, paper, etc.</p>
<p><b>Non Contaminated</b> No biohazard, radiological or hazardous contamination; refer to hazardous waste determination guidelines</p>	<p>Place in hard-walled <b>clear</b> sharps container. Place “Non-Contaminated Sharps” sticker over the biohazard warning label. Sticker is available at the Thimann Stockroom or Baskin Engineering 281. Call EH&amp;S at 9x2553 to arrange for disposal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When full</span></p>	<p>Glass waste - Place in cardboard glass box. To dispose, seal top with strong packaging tape and place “Pitch in” sticker on top of box. Custodians will remove if packaged properly with tape and sticker. Pitch in sticker available at Thimann Stockroom or Baskin Engineering 281. Never put reagent bottles in campus recycle bins, deface label and place directly in dumpster.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When Full</span></p>	<p>Regular Trash – Dispose of in your trashcan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When Full</span></p>
<p><b>Biohazardous Contamination</b> Definition on back of page</p>	<p>Place in a hard-walled <b>clear</b> sharps container. Label with “<b>Biohazardous Sharps Waste</b>” label available from the Stockroom. Sharps must be incinerated via EH&amp;S. For large items that will not fit inside a standard <b>clear</b> walled sharps container, contact EH&amp;S for an appropriate container.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When full</span></p>		<p>Place in <b>clear</b> biohazard bag labeled with the biohazard symbol and sterilize following UCSC Biohazardous Waste Sterilization procedure. (See Q&amp;A section for procedure). Place directly into dumpster.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When full, treat within 7 days</span></p>
<p><b>Medical Contamination</b> Definition on back of page</p>	<p>Place in a hard walled RED sharps container with biohazard symbol. All medical waste must be picked up by an approved vendor at designated storage locations. UCSC is NOT authorized to treat (autoclave) medical waste on site. Review the definition of medical waste on back of page and contact EH&amp;S for questions or assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When full, dispose within 7 days</span></p>		<p>Place in RED biohazard bag labeled with biohazard symbol. All medical waste must be picked up by an approved vendor at designated storage locations. UCSC is NOT authorized to treat (autoclave) medical waste on site. Review the definition of medical waste on back of page.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">When full, dispose within 7 days</span></p>
<p><b>Chemical Contamination</b> Refer to hazardous waste determination guidelines</p>	<p>Hazardous Waste - Place in a hard-walled <b>clear</b> sharps container and label with HW labels. Remove biohazard labels if waste is NOT biohazardous.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">180 days</span></p>	<p>Hazardous Waste - Place in cardboard glass box label with HW labels. Glass boxes available from stockroom.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">180 days</span></p>	<p>Hazardous Waste - Place in a double lined leak-proof plastic bag. Label with HW labels.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">180 days</span></p>
<p><b>Radioactive Contamination</b></p>	<p>Radioactive Waste - Place in a hard-walled <b>clear</b> sharps container and label with “Caution: Radioactive Material” label.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Consult EH&amp;S</span></p>	<p>Radioactive Waste - Place in a pre-labeled cardboard “radioactive waste” box provided by (or obtained from) EH&amp;S. Contaminated glass trash and solid debris may be combined. Dispose by completing a Radioactive Waste Tracking Form and affix to the box as per instructions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Consult EH&amp;S</span></p>	

## Definitions

Before you can decide how to properly dispose of “sharps”, you must understand the differences in the regulatory definitions of *Sharps waste*, *Biohazardous waste* and *Medical waste*. **Do not assume** that your waste is not medical waste just because you are not working in a medical clinic. Read the definitions below carefully and if you still need assistance contact EH&S for help.

### **A. Sharps waste**

Means any device having acute ridged corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including, but not limited to all of the following:

1. Hypodermic needles
2. Syringes (with or without the needle attached)
3. Blades
4. Broken glass

### **B. Biohazardous waste**

Means any of the following:

1. Laboratory waste, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
  - a. Human or animal specimen cultures from medical and pathology laboratories.
  - b. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research laboratories. (Infectious agent - means a type of microorganism, bacteria, mold, parasite, or virus that normally causes, or significantly contributes to the cause of, increased morbidity or mortality of human beings.)
  - c. Waste from the production of:
    - i. bacteria, viruses, spores,
    - ii. discarded live and attenuated vaccines used in human health care or research,
    - iii. discarded animal vaccines, including Brucellosis and contagious Ecthyma, and
    - iv. culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.
2. Human surgery specimens or tissues removed at surgery or autopsy, which are suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans.
3. Animal parts, tissues, fluids, or carcasses suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans.
4. Waste that contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans.

### **C. Medical waste**

Means a waste that meets the definition of both **Sharps waste** or **Biohazardous waste** (as identified above) AND is generated or produced as a result of any of the following actions:

1. Diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or **animals**.
2. **Research** pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals.
3. The production or **testing of medicinal preparations** made from living organisms and their products, including, but not limited to, serums, vaccines, antigens, and antitoxins.

## Biohazardous Waste Sterilization Procedure

Biohazardous waste that must be sterilized or otherwise rendered noninfectious prior to disposal must be done so using the following methods:

1. Autoclave using (as a minimum) standard operating procedures established for the sterilizers being used.
2. Chemical sterilization through the use of appropriate disinfectant e.g. bleach, quaternary ammonia compounds, gluteraldehyde.  
*Note:* Autoclaving is the preferred method used at UCSC to treat biohazardous materials before disposal. Substitute sterilization techniques other than items 1 and 2 above require prior approval from EH&S.
3. Discharge into approved sewer system (liquids and semi-liquids only) after disinfection.  
Exception:
  - a. Biohazardous waste mixed with chemical waste may NOT be poured into the sewer.
  - b. Under most circumstances non-sharps waste that is potentially infectious, e.g. blood or other potentially infectious body fluids, may be disposed to the sewer without treatment.
4. Disposal off-campus at a state-approved autoclave or incinerator. (UCSC contracts with private disposal companies to incinerate waste not treated on campus.)
5. Recognizable human anatomical remains must be cremated or interred.
6. Research animals containing infectious agents must be incinerated.