

HAZARD ALERT

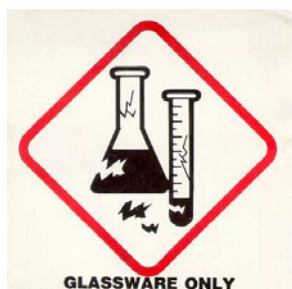
Occupational Health & Safety



Glass and Sharps Disposal in Laboratories

There has been a recent incident where glass has been disposed of in the regular garbage in a laboratory. Disposing of glass and other sharps in the regular garbage exposes our caretaking staff to the potential of puncture wounds while collecting the garbage. Caretaking staff who collect the garbage containing glass and other sharps are unaware of the danger. Segregating waste materials is the safest method for proper disposal and is the responsibility of the waste generator within each laboratory. Everyone who generates waste must follow procedures for proper disposal. New laboratory staff and students must be made aware of these requirements prior to starting work. This is the responsibility of the supervisor of the individual laboratory. These requirements are covered in the Laboratory and Environmental Waste Management Safety Training provided by Occupational Health and Safety.

Glass



Non-contaminated glass should be disposed of in a dedicated and labeled plastic or metal pail. The label is available from the Occupational Health and Safety Office (Rm. 60 Stevenson Lawson Building).

A 20 l metal or plastic pail can be obtained from campus caretaking by contacting the caretaking supervisor responsible for your building. Containers specifically purchased and designed for the disposal of glass are also acceptable.

Contaminated glass with hazardous materials must be disposed as part of the hazardous materials waste pickup program. Specific instructions are found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/facultystaff/h_and_s/enviromental_prog/pickup_sched_idx.htm



Other Sharps

Sharps consist of: used hypodermic needles, various types of blades and other tools capable of producing puncture wounds. Sharps must be disposed of in an approved sharps container.

Proper segregation and disposal of all waste materials is the responsibility of the laboratory user. Many others will be handling your waste after it leaves your lab.