Disposal of Laboratory Glassware

Summary/Purpose: The Lab Glassware Disposal Policy details the minimum requirements and procedures for the safe packaging, disposal of Broken Laboratory Glassware.

Disposal of Laboratory Glassware

Glassware must not be disposed of with normal trash. Building Services Personnel and others have been injured when carrying trash bags with broken glassware in them.

- Several cuts or lacerations due to the improper disposal of laboratory glassware have recently been reported on the campus. In an effort to eliminate or minimize these injuries, certain procedures will be followed when discarding broken or unserviceable glassware.
- Broken glassware should immediately be cleaned up. A laboratory should already have a small brush and dust pan available to clean up after small accidents. Forceps or duct tape can be used to pick up the smaller pieces of broken glass.
- Discarded glassware must not contain any hazardous wastes, Medical Waste, Pathological Waste or Radiological Wastes.
- If the glassware contains hazardous wastes or Radiological Wastes, please call Health & Safety (5433) for disposal instructions.
- If the glassware contains or is contaminated with any pathological or biological materials, refer to the Sharps and Biological Waste Disposal Flow Chart or call Health & Safety (5433) for disposal instructions.

Glassware must not be disposed of with normal trash. Building Services Personnel and others have been injured when carrying trash bags with broken glassware in them.

- Discarded glassware must be placed in a small puncture proof, double-lined cardboard box or a container specifically designed for the disposal of glassware.
- The box must be securely sealed with tape.
- Any cardboard box may be used, provided it is sturdy and of a size that will not weigh more than 40 pounds when full.
- The container must be labeled as to the contents.
  o CAUTION
  o LABORATORY GLASSWARE ONLY!
  o NO HAZARDOUS WASTE, MEDICAL WASTE, PATHOLOGICAL WASTE OR RADIOLOGICAL WASTES.

YOU MUST PLACE THE CONTAINER DIRECTLY INTO THE DUMPSTER.

Never allow Custodial Services to handle broken glassware.

- Never use laboratory glassware boxes for the disposal of
  o Sharps
  o Biohazardous materials
  o Liquid wastes
Chemically contaminated laboratory glassware/plasticware
Chemical containers that can't be disposed of as regular solid waste

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Laboratory glass that is disposed of in cardboard boxes must be appropriately decontaminated, where necessary, prior to disposal.

If you have any questions about this disposal, please contact Health & Safety (5433) for disposal instructions.