

Disposal of Laboratory Glassware

Glassware must not be disposed of in normal laboratory trash. Various departments on campus have reported puncture wounds or lacerations when carrying trash bags containing broken glassware.

Broken glassware poses a genuine hazard and should be cleaned up immediately. Each laboratory should have a small brush and dust pan ready for such incidents. Forceps or tape can also be used to pick up smaller pieces of broken glass. Alert all laboratory occupants of the hazard to prevent injury.

To minimize various potential hazards when discarding broken or unserviceable glassware, certain procedures should be followed:

- Discarded glassware **must** be placed in a puncture proof, double-lined cardboard box or a container specifically designed for the disposal of glassware.
- The box must be securely sealed with tape to prevent any leaks
- Any cardboard box may be used, provided it is sturdy, double-lined and of a size that will not weigh more than 20 pounds when full. You can also purchase broken glassware boxes from various manufacturers or from the Scientific Supply Store on campus.
- Label the container as “**CAUTION: BROKEN GLASSWARE**” in bold.
- Place the container directly into the dumpster.
- Discarded glassware must not contain any hazardous waste, medical waste, or radioisotopes. If the glassware contains any of these items, please call Risk Management & Safety at 844-4870 for information on disposal.
- Never use broken glassware boxes for the disposal of
 - Sharps
 - Biohazard materials
 - Liquid wastes

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