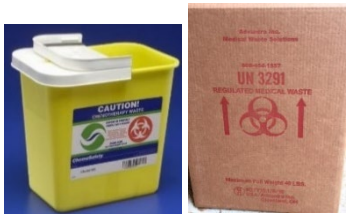
Broken Glass & Sharps Disposal

Mindfulness Minute: Incorporate safety into your workflow by considering the hazards associated with your research materials each time you use and dispose of them.

Glassware is an important part of all different types of labs, but when it breaks, it can cause injury. Sharp devices (e.g. needles, scalpels, and razor blades) are also important lab tools, but are inherently hazardous to use and dispose. Disposing of broken glass and sharp devices safely reduces the risk of injury and exposure of lab personnel and everyone who handles the trash or waste.

Follow these instructions for safe disposal of broken glass and sharps:

	**Uncontaminated:** Use any color except red, orange, or yellow puncture-proof sharps containers to dispose of uncontaminated (i.e. not used in conjunction with hazardous chemical, biological, or radiological substances) sharps and broken glass. Take to the dumpster for disposal. You may also place uncontaminated broken glass in a puncture-proof container. When full, close or tape the container shut, label as broken glass, and take to the dumpster for disposal. If you are using a cardboard box, line the interior with a durable plastic bag. This will ensure that the glass stays together if the cardboard box gets wet. Don't use an autoclave bag or bag with a biohazard symbol.
	**Chemical:** Use an opaque, puncture-proof container that can be closed/sealed to dispose of sharps and broken glass that have been used in conjunction with hazardous chemical agents. When using sharps containers, use any color except red, orange, or yellow. Label with a hazardous waste label. When full, seal it permanently and take it to the hazardous waste room or request a hazardous waste pick up.
	**Biological:** Use FDA-approved red/orange puncture-proof sharps containers with a biohazard symbol to dispose of sharps and broken glass that have been used in conjunction with biohazardous agents. When full, seal it permanently, put it in an autoclave bag, tie with a single overhand knot, and dispose in a biohazardous waste bin (large red bins). For large containers, request a hazardous waste pick up.
	**Chemotherapeutic:** Use yellow puncture-proof sharps containers to dispose of sharps and broken glass that have been used in conjunction with chemothterapeutic agents. When full, seal it permanently and package it in designated cardboard boxes (not large red bins) for incineration by the UTK medical waste contractor.
	**Radiological:** Use an opaque, puncture-proof container that can be closed/sealed to dispose of sharps and broken glass that have been used in conjunction with radiological agents. Label as radioactive. When full, seal it permanently and submit to Radiation Safety with hazardous label and description per Radiation Safety procedures. Contact radiation safety to submit radioactive waste or if properly packaged sharps are disposed within Radiation Safety waste bags.

To contact Hazardous Waste, email safety@utk.edu or request a pick up here: https://ehs.utk.edu/index.php/services/
To contact Radiation Safety, email radiationsafety@utk.edu. To contact Lab Safety, email ehs_labsafety@utk.edu.

Reference:

https://ehs.utk.edu/index.php/table-of-policies-plans-procedures-guides/sharp-device-guide/