

PROCEDURE FOR DISPOSING OF SHARP WASTE

Sharps and potentially sharp objects (such as broken glass, glass sample vials, needles, razor blades, toothpicks, pipet tips, wire, and other objects that could potentially puncture or break skin), must be separated from normal trash as follows:

For Non-Biological Waste:

- **Clean and rinsed** empty glass chemical bottles, clean or non-hazardous (contains no hazardous chemicals or hazardous chemical residue) glassware, clean or non-hazardous broken glass, clean or non-hazardous glass sample vials, and clean or non-hazardous glass pipets should be collected in a VWR glass box (available from the VWR stockroom). Remember that rinseate from used, empty chemical bottles or other glass containers may be hazardous waste and must be disposed of accordingly. **Deface any chemical labels before putting the empty glass chemical bottle in the box.** THE BOX IS FOR GLASS ONLY – no sample lids, Kimwipes, or other non-glass items are allowed! When the VWR box is full, fold the cardboard flap back into the cardboard lid and tape the lid down onto the box. Write “CLEAN BROKEN GLASS” on the top of the box and place the full box in the hallway for pickup. The custodians should pick it up within a couple of days. If there are any problems or questions, contact Kevin Healy, the Recycling Coordinator, at x3-6360 or khealy@mit.edu. **NO BIOLOGICAL, HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL, or RADIOACTIVE WASTE RESIDUE is allowed in the VWR glass box.**
- **Chemically contaminated** sharps, such as glass or plastic pipets used to pipet hazardous chemicals, small empty glass chemical bottles with residual chemical still inside (deface the label of empty chemical bottles), pipet tips, used glass sample vials, razor blades, tooth picks, syringes, needles, and other items that could potentially puncture or break skin should all be placed in the white sharps buckets. The white sharps buckets **must have red Hazardous Waste tags** on them with the phrase “Chemically Contaminated Sharps (non-biological)” written on the tag, along with the names of the top 3 or 4 most dangerous chemicals that are present in the bucket. Also indicate the hazards associated with the residual chemicals in the bucket (toxic, corrosive, ignitable, etc.), the name of the person using the bucket, and the PI’s name (in this case, Prof. Hatton). **The white sharps buckets are for sharps with residual chemicals ONLY. No vials full of sample solutions are allowed,** and any buckets containing vials with liquid still in them will be returned by the waste collectors. Full buckets can be disposed of using the same website that is used for hazardous waste pick up. Note also that the waste collectors will NOT pick up buckets whose lids can not be screwed down tight because the buckets are too full. The lids must screw down fully before the bucket can be picked up. If there are any problems or questions, contact EHS.