

## Sharps Waste Disposal for 14<sup>th</sup> floor

### 1. Definition:

- a. Metallic sharp or pointed items capable of causing punctures, cuts or tears in the skin membrane including:
  - i. Needles: hypodermic, surgical, suture, or IV needles, syringes with needles, lancets
  - ii. Blades: scalpels, blades
- b. Glass and plastic ware including:
  - i. Intact or broken laboratory containers such as flasks, beakers, bottles, etc.;
  - ii. small glass containers, ampoules and tubes;
  - iii. glass and plastic pipettes and micropipette tips.

### 2. Responsibility:

- a. Laboratories that generate sharp waste are responsible for the separation, packaging and treatment prior to disposal.
- b. Questions should be directed to the Environmental Protection Services at 416.946.3473 or e-mail [hazwaste.ehs@utoronto.ca](mailto:hazwaste.ehs@utoronto.ca)

### 3. Precaution:

- a. Needles and blades pose a safety risk and health risk its handlers, disposers and transporters.
- b. Per the universal precautions for exposure to blood and bodily fluids, all sharp wastes should be considered potentially infectious.
- c. Needles should not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.

### 4. Storage/Disposal:

- a. Place used sharps in yellow sharps containers.

**NOTE:** Needle and blade waste contaminated with or containing viable biological materials and trace amounts of hazardous chemical, singly or in any combination, can be collected together in the same yellow container for needle and blade waste. In most cases, the quantity of potentially hazardous material adhering to used needles and blades will be minimal and present in trace amounts only. All liquids containing hazardous chemical or radioactive materials must be drained from disposable syringes and collected for appropriate disposal.

All liquids containing hazardous chemicals must be drained from disposable syringes and collected for appropriate disposal. For needle and blade waste contaminated with significant amounts of a hazardous chemical, the chemical should be deactivated in accordance with the procedures outlined in the chemical's Material Safety Data Sheet,

prior to disposal. Environmental Protection Services may be consulted for further chemical deactivation procedures.

- b. When full, close the container by securing the attached cap over the top opening.
  - i. Every sharps container has a line on the label which indicates the maximum fill mark:



- c. Place the sealed sharps container either next to a yellow biowaste pail or in a conspicuous place on your lab bench nearby to a yellow biowaste pail.
- d. Sharps waste is picked up on Wednesdays by Environmental Protection Services.

## 5. References:

- a. <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/our-services/biosafety/biosafety-manual/needles-and-syringes/>
- b. <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/laboratory-hazardous-waste-management-and-disposal-manual/5-5-sharp-waste-management/>