

Standard Operating Procedure

Safe Use and Disposal of Metal Sharps

All materials that could cause cuts or punctures, must be contained, encapsulated, and disposed of in a manner that does not endanger other workers.

Procedure:

- 1) Metal sharps must be segregated from all other waste.
- 2) Sharps used with chemical or biological materials should be decontaminated prior to disposal whenever possible.
- 3) Sharps with radioactive contamination must be disposed of as radioactive waste.
- 4) Dispose of sharps in a rigid container, such as a sturdy plastic jar or a metal can. The lid should be closed when not in use.

Note: If the sharps are not biohazardous, ensure the biohazardous label on the container is removed, defaced, or covered.

- 1) When the container is three-quarters full, encapsulate the sharps with Plaster of Paris or some other solidifying medium.
- 2) Once the contents are encapsulated, seal the sharps container, label it “Encapsulated Sharps,” and take it to the dumpster.

NOTE: Laboratory personnel are responsible for sharps disposal. Custodial staff are not responsible for encapsulating and/or disposing of metal sharps waste. If you have any questions regarding safe use and disposal of sharps or other hazardous substances, please contact the EHS Office at (409) 741-4055.

