



Laboratory Glass Waste Disposal

Purpose

This procedure specifies the method for proper disposal of laboratory glass waste to ensure the safety of disposal workers and compliance with applicable legislation.

Scope

This procedure applies to disposal of laboratory glassware that is uncontaminated or contaminated by biohazardous, biomedical agents, and hazardous chemicals.

Laboratory glass waste includes: bottles, jars, beakers, tubes, pipettes, glass slides, etc.

ESF does NOT pick-up laboratory glass waste - this type of waste is disposed of via Building Operations Waste Management.

Background

Disposal of contaminated glassware waste to landfills is prohibited by Metro Vancouver, and under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation, 2009.

At present, laboratory glass cannot be recycled at the Point Grey Campus, but UBC is looking at recycling options. Lab glass must be decontaminated according to this approved procedure, accumulated as a solid waste stream in the lab, and sent to the landfill for disposal.

Procedure

- Treat as regular solid waste if glass is **uncontaminated**.
- Decontaminate safely as required, then treat as regular solid waste, if glass is **contaminated**.
 - Hazardous chemicals or organic solvents: safely empty container, decontaminate or neutralize as necessary, triple rinse with cold water, dry and dispose of as regular solid waste. Leave bottles of organic solvents in a fume hood for at least 24 hours.
 - Risk Group 1 or 2 biohazardous materials: decontaminate empty containers with bleach, by autoclaving, or by using other approved methods.
- Remove or deface all labels and hazard warnings; remove all bottle caps.
- Place large unbroken bottles or jars directly into dumpster or compactor. Large broken glassware must be placed into clear heavy-duty bags and then into dumpster.
- Place only small broken glassware (e.g. beakers, tubes, pipettes) into Glass Waste pails/containers lined with heavy duty clear bags.
- Use only clear 2.5 MIL heavy duty plastic bags that enclose all the glass; double/triple bag as needed.
- It is not necessary to affix ESF hazardous waste generator barcodes on glass waste bags.
- Do NOT place any sharps (e.g. needles, blades, syringes, etc.) and/or glass vials/jars containing hazardous materials into glass waste containers.
 - If sharps are placed into a broken glass collection bin, the entire batch must be considered “sharps waste” and labelled as such.
- Once glass waste container is 3/4 full, tie bag closed and ensure no glass protrudes past the container top.
- Use approved glass waste containers: 5 gallon grey metal cans or white plastic pails.
- Take waste container to the building's designated area for waste pick-up.
- Empty full plastic bags into a waste compactor and take waste container back to your lab - if there is a self-contained compactor available in your waste area (only certain buildings).
- Pails and clear bags are available via Building Operations Stores (604-822-5272).
- Contact UBC Building Operations Service Centre (604-822-2173) for supplies or to schedule a pick-up; you can also submit an online Service Request.