Disposal of Broken Glass and Sharps

Definitions

Biohazards are: Biological agents potentially hazardous to humans, animals, or other forms of life. These include bacteria, viruses, recombinant DNA, primate body fluids, animals, cell lines, and plasmids that may be used in research or teaching.

Sharps are: needles, syringes, blades, or scalpels capable of causing punctures or cuts.

Procedure

A. Broken Glass

1. All labs must deposit broken glass in specially labelled re-usable containers. Only broken glass may be placed in these containers. Containers labelled: "BROKEN GLASS ONLY" are available for purchase from Science Stores. Broken glass will be collected for disposal by the cleaning staff once per week. or more often if the Department requires it.

2. Broken glass containing biohazards must first be autoclaved before depositing into the "BROKEN GLASS ONLY" container.

3. Broken thermometers containing mercury must first have the mercury removed before depositing into the "BROKEN GLASS ONLY" container.

In special circumstances, exceptions to the above procedure can be arranged with the Occupational Health and Safety Office.

B. Sharps

1. Sharps containers are available for purchase in different sizes, from Science Stores.

2. All sharps must be deposited in the special sharps containers and returned by the users to Science Stores or other designated area in your department when full. The Animal Care Facility will arrange for the incineration of sharps containers.

For literature and further information related to this topic, see or call:

SFU Occupational Health & Safety Office, room AQ314, phone 24978

Departmental Lab Coordinators:

Biological Sciences Room B8263 Phone 23301
Chemistry Room C8047 Phone 23531
Science Stores Room B6208 Phone 23305