

Laboratory Glassware

Laboratory glassware is any item that could puncture regular trash bags and potentially cause injuries to someone handling the trash bag. Laboratory glassware includes:

1. Clean and empty broken glassware, bottles, flasks, vials and glass Pasteur pipettes not used for bio-hazardous or infectious materials.
2. Broken laboratory glassware, as well as intact glassware that could potentially break during waste handling activities.
3. Broken plastic ware may also be disposed as waste laboratory glassware (WLG) if it has potential to cause injury during handling. In general, plastic pipette tips do not have potential to cause injury and may be disposed of directly into the regular trash. WLG may be disposed of as regular trash after it has been safely packaged and labeled.

Broken Glassware Guidelines:

1. Collect WLG in a sturdy cardboard box that has been lined with a regular trash bag. Never use a “red bag” to line the box. Red trash bags are the universal symbol for infectious waste.
2. Label the outside of the box “Broken Glass Only.” Ensure that the label is in a location that is readily visible to laboratory occupants
 - a. It is acceptable to use a plastic bucket with a lid in lieu of the trash bag-lined cardboard box.
 - b. Regardless of the type of container used, always ensure you place a “Broken Glass Only” label on the outside. This label communicates the potential hazard to anyone who may handle the container.
3. The glassware/plastic ware cannot be contaminated with hazardous material, including radioactive material (any amount), chemicals (more than a trace amount) or biological material (any amount).
4. Once full, the bag top should be twisted and taped closed, and the box top taped shut. For plastic pails, replace the container lid and ensure a tight seal. If lid does not seal, then apply tape over it to keep the lid in place.
5. Ensure that the label remains visible after the box/container has been sealed.
6. DO NOT RECYCLE CONTAINERS.
7. Carry the sealed, labeled container directly to the dumpster outside of your building. Or, if you prefer, submit a work order for disposal by Building Services. Ensure you note in the work order that the waste has been packaged.



Pre-labeled broken glass boxes & containers are available for purchase. Contact your EH&S staff at 221-2146 for vendor information.