

Sharps Medical Waste



Personal Protective Equipment & Personnel Monitoring

BSL1 or BSL2:



Lab Coat



Gloves



Safety Glasses

BSL2+:



Disposable Gown



Double Gloves



Safety Glasses



Surgical Mask

- This SOP applies to disposal of medical waste sharps. Sharps are items (e.g., glass, needles, blades and wires) that can penetrate human skin.
- Handling sharps increases the risk of injury and exposure to hazardous agents. Proper and immediate disposal of sharps waste helps lower the potential for exposure to hazardous agents.

Engineering Controls, Equipment & Materials

Sharps Container: Rigid, nonporous, leak-resistant, puncture-resistant container with a tight-fitting lid and appropriate label(s)

Procedure

1. Place assembled sharps container within arm's reach
2. Dispose of sharp into the sharps container immediately after use
3. Securely close the lid of the container when objects reach the fill line (approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full)
4. Disinfect the outside of the container following the instructions in the Decontamination SOP
5. Transport closed container to a medical waste accumulation site within 7 days (see Biohazardous Material Transport SOP)
6. Place closed container upright inside an appropriate waste barrel at the accumulation site

Cautions & Considerations

- Use an appropriately labeled sharps container for sharps waste (e.g., biohazard, pharmaceutical, trace chemo, pathology)
- Contact EH&S for more information on disposing of chemical or radioactive sharps waste
- Use tongs, forceps or a broom/dustpan to pick up sharps involved in a spill
- Leave needles uncapped and attached to syringes when disposing
- Never remove or try to remove items from a sharps container
- Keep sharps containers upright at all times
- Report injuries, exposures and near misses to the supervisor/instructor and to EH&S