SHARPS WASTE SEGREGATION GUIDELINE

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Sharps are objects that can cause a cut or injury by breaking the skin. The term sharps refers to needle assemblies, syringes, scalpel blades, broken glassware, and other glassware with sharp edges.

Although glassware and broken glass are considered sharps, at the University of Waterloo, they are handled differently than other sharps. This guideline aims to clarify the requirements for segregating and disposing of all the various types of sharps on campus.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

When generating and disposing of sharp related wastes, use the following guidelines:

- **Never** dispose of **any** type of sharp in a regular garbage or waste receptacle. This can pose a serious hazard to custodians and other fellow employees, students and even visitors.
- **Segregate** sharps based on the segregation flowchart in this guideline. Recognize that sharps made of glass (broken glass, slides, contaminated glass) need to be handled differently than needle assemblies, syringes, razor blades, scalpel blades, and suture blades.
- **Label** all waste sharps containers with the following information
  - Contents
    - Write the type of sharps contained within the container (broken glass, needle assemblies, etc.).
    - Label the container as indicated in the flowchart.
    - Short forms can be included, but not solely used.
  - Name of the generator (researcher name)
  - Lab location and extension
- **Ensure** the containers used for sharps are made of puncture resistant hard plastic.
- **Take** containers to the ESF when they are ready for final disposal
- **Containers** with residues on the outside will not be accepted
WASTE SEGREGATION

Use the flowchart below to determine how to segregate and dispose of a specific sharp.

Figure 1: Flowchart defining how sharps are segregated and disposed of.