

Wooster Campus Protocol For Proper Disposal of Sharp Materials

Sharps are broken glass, needles, scalpel blades or metal shards. When these items are disposed care must be given to prevent harm or injury to the handlers. **Sharps are not disposed of as hazardous waste.**

The packaging and disposal of sharp materials contaminated by infectious agents or chemicals will follow a different route than non-contaminated materials. The EPA has specific instructions spelled out in their “Standards for the packaging of infectious waste” (3745-27-34). Environmental Health & Safety’s “Chemical Management Guide Book” has additional information on handling materials contaminated by chemical agents. As for non-contaminated sharp materials, these items may be segregated into recyclable or non-recyclable materials.

Disposal of sharp materials contaminated by infectious agents

According to the EPA, infectious waste sharps shall be placed in a rigid, puncture-resistant, leak resistant, sealable container specifically designed and manufactured for the disposal of sharps. They will also need to be labeled as sharps and with the international biohazard symbol. These containers can be purchased from safety supply companies or through University Stores. For disposal by Environmental Health & Safety, these containers will need to be placed in a **red** plastic bag with the international biohazard symbol on it and then placed in a biohazard shipping box. Bags and boxes may be provided by contacting Wooster Campus Environmental Health and Safety @ 3663 or Columbus Environmental Health and Safety’s Hazardous Waste Unit @ 292-1284.

Disposal of sharp materials contaminated by chemical agents

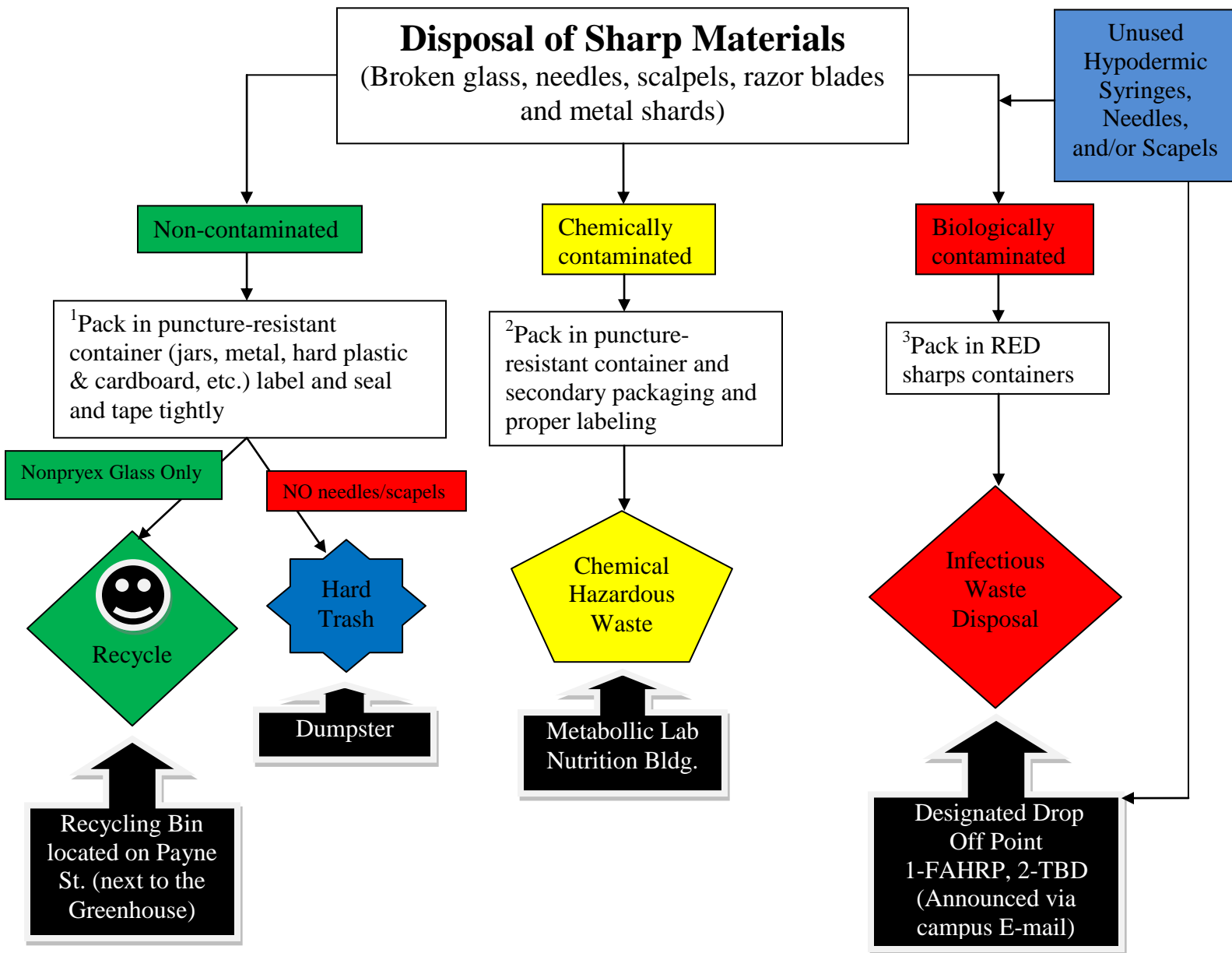
Chemically contaminated sharp materials should be placed in a rigid, puncture proof container, such as a plastic bottle, hard cardboard box or a bucket and then placed in a secondary container identifying the chemical agent. Finally, dispose of as chemical hazardous waste.

Disposal of non-contaminated sharp materials

Sharp materials, such as broken glass or metal fragments should be placed in a rigid secondary container that will prevent penetration and is sealable. Plastic containers like empty milk bottles, buckets or jars can be used. Firm cardboard boxes can also be used. These items can be placed in the hard trash (dumpster). Broken glass may be recycled: no pyrex glass allowed.

The EPA (administrative code 3745-27-34) does **not** allow unused hypodermic needles, syringes and scalpel blades, whether they are infectious or not, to be disposed of in the hard trash. They must be packaged in a container that is rigid, puncture-resistant, and closed tightly to prevent loss of contents. These materials must be disposed of as infectious waste.





KEY
¹Label: "Broken Glass"
²Label: "Broken Glass w/Chemical Name"
³Container: Must be rigid, puncture-resistant, leak resistant, sealable, and place in red plastic bags and labeled with the international biosafety symbol.
 TBD: To Be Determined



Waste reduction saves money, conserves natural resources, and reduces pollution.