# BI Waste Disposal Policy - General and Hazardous

1. This policy covers general laboratory waste, hazardous (chemical) waste, sharps (including glass) and pipette tips that are not contaminated with biohazardous substances.
   1. For biohazardous waste, refer to the BI Laboratory Waste Policy – Biohazardous.
2. Wear the appropriate PPE when handling laboratory waste. Refer to applicable SDS/PSDS and the BI PPE Policy.
3. If using a fume hood, ensure required waste containers are inside the fume hood prior to working.
4. BI users should consult BI staff for assistance with waste disposal, as needed.

## General Waste

1. General waste includes items safe for land-fill disposal or recycling.
2. General waste is maintained by McMaster Facility Services.
3. Separate waste according to type (e.g. solid, liquid, recyclable).
4. Grey containers are for general waste disposal.
5. Blue containers are for recyclable materials (e.g. cardboard).
6. Cardboard boxes should be broken down prior to placement in recycling bin.
7. Cardboard may also be placed in the north 4th floor hallway, near ETB 430.

## Hazardous Waste

1. Hazardous waste includes substances that are harmful to the environment, as outlined in RMM #502: Hazardous Waste Management Program.
2. Hazardous substances do **NOT** go down the drain or into general waste and must be disposed of as hazardous waste in appropriately labeled containers.
3. Do not store hazardous waste in fume hoods.
4. Separate hazardous waste according to type (e.g. liquid, solid, glass, pipette tip) and compatibility. Review SDS to ensure proper disposal. Do not mix acids with bases, and flammables with oxidizers. Keep organic halogenated waste separate from organic non-halogenated waste.

### Hazardous Waste Disposal – Liquid and Solid

1. Choose an appropriate waste container for hazardous waste. Ensure good chemical compatibility between the waste container and hazardous material(s).
2. For hazardous waste ensure a tightly fitting lid.
3. Label the waste container with a McMaster Hazardous Waste label (see below).
4. Dispose of waste into the container as it is generated.
5. Do not fill waste containers more than 80% full.
6. For disposal assistance, seek assistance from BI staff. Disposal is via EOHSS Hazardous Waste Pickup (see below).

### Empty Hazardous Bottles

1. Remove the container lid.
2. Ensure the hazardous material is removed. For water-soluble and toxic materials, triple-rinse the container and then allow it to dry in a fume hood; ensure the initial concentrated rinse is discarded as Hazardous Waste. For solvents, allow the material to evaporate in a fume-hood.
3. Once the container is dry, deface/remove the hazardous label and place a green empty bottle ‘Notice’ label on container. Labels are available from EOHSS.
4. Ensure the HECHMET barcode is delisted from your inventory.
5. Place the container, without a lid, in the hallway for pickup by Facility Services. If there are any issues with the container, a red “label” will be attached and the container not removed. Contact EOHSS or BI staff for further assistance.

## Glass Waste

1. Broken glass is considered a sharp but may be disposed of as either clean (uncontaminated) glass waste, hazardous glass waste or biohazardous glass waste. The disposal route depends on associated hazards.

### Uncontaminated Glass Waste

1. Uncontaminated (clean) glass waste is disposed of into cardboard boxes labeled as “Broken Glass Disposal” that are lined with a strong plastic bag.
2. Fill uncontaminated (clean) glass waste containers no more than 80% full.
3. When 80% full, inform BI staff. BI staff will tie the inner bag, seal the box and send the box for disposal.
4. BI staff will replace uncontaminated (clean) glass waste containers as needed or requested.

### Hazardous Glass – Disposable

1. Hazardous disposable glass waste should be disposed of in a puncture proof container or in a cardboard box lined with a strong plastic bag.
2. Ensure the hazardous glass waste container is labeled as “Hazardous Glass Waste” and has a McMaster Hazardous Waste label.
3. When the hazardous glass waste container is 80% full, if applicable, carefully tie or tape inner bag, and seal the container.
4. For disposal assistance, seek assistance from BI staff. Disposal is via EOHSS Hazardous Waste Pickup.

### Hazardous Glass – Reusable

1. Alternatively, unbroken hazardously contaminated glass may be washed and disposed as clean (uncontaminated) glass waste. Ensure hazardous solutions from cleaning do not go down the drain; dispose of as hazardous liquid waste.

## Sharps

1. Sharps including needles, syringes with needles, razor blades and scalpels are disposed into designated biohazardous sharps containers, which are puncture resistant, leak-proof and sealable.
2. Each BI laboratory should have, at minimum, one designated sharps container. Consult BI staff for plastic sharps container locations as needed. BI staff will stock BI laboratories with sharps containers as needed or requested.
3. Dispose of sharps into a designated sharps container.
4. When the biohazard sharps container is ¾ full, close and/or seal, and give to BI staff for disposal. Sharps containers can be disposed of via EOHSS hazardous waste, or via double-lined designated biohazard cardboard disposal boxes.

## Pipette Tips

1. Pipette tips should be placed in a puncture proof container or a cardboard box lined with a strong plastic bag for disposal. Disposal procedures are dependent on associated hazards. Seek assistance from BI staff.