

## Laboratory Glassware Disposal Guidelines

### PURPOSE

To provide a standard procedure for the proper disposal of laboratory glassware

### GUIDELINES

#### Non-chemical Containers

- Broken laboratory glassware must be fully decontaminated, thoroughly rinsed and air dried before being placed in broken glass containers. Extreme care must be exercised when handling broken glassware. Always wear necessary personal protection.
- Laboratory glassware must be allowed to air dry before being placed in broken glass containers. Cardboard containers will not hold its integrity when wet.
- Disposal responsibilities remain with the generator of broken glassware. It is the generator's responsibility to remove the broken glass containers from the laboratory and placed them in the solid waste dumpsters located at the loading docks. Always wear eye protection while disposing of broken glassware containers.
- Broken glassware containers are not to be placed in hallways or means of egress. Broken glassware containers are to remain in the laboratory until the time of disposal. **Custodial personnel will not remove nor dispose of broken glass containers.**
- Broken glass containers are for the exclusive disposal of broken glassware. Do not mix broken glassware with laboratory equipment manufactured from any other material of construction.
- Unbroken glass containers must be fully decontaminated and thoroughly rinsed before being placed in the dumpsters. Do not place empty glass containers in hallways or means of egress.
- Exercise extreme caution when placing glass containers in metal dumpsters. Glass may cause injuries due to shattering at the time of contact with the hard metal surface. Always wear eye protection while placing glass containers in the dumpsters.

#### Chemical Containers

- Chemical glass bottles must meet the definition of "RCRA empty" as deemed by 40 CFR 261.7:
  - All chemicals have been removed that can be removed from the container
    - Any solvent rinsate from listed p-listed or u-listed chemical containers must be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste
  - No more than 2.5 centimeters of residue remains on the bottom of the container
  - No more than 3% by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container if the container is less than or equal to 119 gallons in size
  - No more than 0.3% by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container if the container is greater than 119 gallons in size
- Prior to disposal, the cap must be removed and the bottle label must be crossed out with a permanent marker. Empty containers must also be labeled "EMPTY".

For more information regarding these guidelines, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at (305) 348-2621 or [ehs@fiu.edu](mailto:ehs@fiu.edu).