

## Laboratory Glassware Disposal Guidelines

### PURPOSE

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

### GUIDELINES

Broken glass containers are designated to dispose of non-contaminated broken glass and are mandatory for all laboratories and spaces that utilize glassware. Laboratories and spaces are responsible for purchasing broken glass containers from an FIU-approved vendor, like Fisher Scientific, or can make their own by obtaining a cardboard box, defacing any markings on the exterior, writing "Broken Glass" on the exterior, and lining the inside with a trash bag.

#### Disposing of Broken Glass

- Extreme care must be exercised when handling broken glassware. Before handling the broken glass, always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e., protective eyewear, gloves, fully covered limbs, close-toed shoes, etc.).
- Broken glass containers are exclusively for the disposal of broken glassware. Do not mix broken glassware with any other material.
- If the broken glassware contained chemicals or hazardous waste, it is considered hazardous waste and must be collected carefully in a puncture-proof container and disposed of as hazardous waste.
- If the broken glassware was not contaminated, then broken glassware must be carefully disposed of in the broken glass container.

#### Disposing Of The Broken Glass Container

- The generator is responsible for disposing of the broken glass containers. **Custodial personnel will not remove nor dispose of broken glass containers.**
- Broken glass containers are to remain inside the laboratory or space until the time of disposal. Do not place the broken glass or broken glass containers in hallways or means of egress.
- Do not overfill the broken glass container, only fill 3/4 of the container.
- When it is time to dispose of the broken glass container, carefully seal the bag within the box with tape.
- Close the box and tape all the seams together.
- Remove the broken glass containers from the laboratory or space and place them in the solid waste dumpsters, usually located in the loading docks. Always wear PPE while disposing of broken glass containers.
  - Exercise extreme caution when placing glass containers in metal dumpsters. Glass may cause injuries due to shattering at contact with the hard metal surface. Always wear eye protection while placing glass containers in the dumpsters.

#### Intact Chemical Containers

Chemical glass bottles can be disposed of or recycled. For more information, review the "[Empty Container Management Quick Reference Guide](#)" under the [Environmental Compliance](#) tab of the [Safety Programs](#) in the [EH&S website](#).

For more information regarding these guidelines, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety through email at [ehs@fiu.edu](mailto:ehs@fiu.edu).