



November 2003

ROUTINE WASTES

For many laboratories, labeling hazardous waste is tedious especially when there are multiple containers of identical contents. These “routine wastes” are wastes that are generated repeatedly, regardless of the frequency or quantity. ES would appreciate your assistance in identifying these wastes in order to: 1) develop specific labels for these wastes so that labs do not have to repeatedly fill in the same information, and 2) create a more accurate inventory of wastes produced.

ES can assist the labs by providing “routine waste” labels. To assist us in developing labels specifically for your routine wastes, ES requests that you complete a “Routine Waste Form” to receive routine waste labels. An example of a completed form can be found at:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/pdfs/rwexample.pdf>. Unlike the labels, this form needs only to be completed once and can include percent ranges instead of exact amounts. This allows for flexibility in the accumulation. For more information, please go to: <http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/chemwaste.shtml#routinewaste>

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ASBESTOS AWARENESS TRAINING

Asbestos Awareness training is required for University employees who work in and around areas that may have asbestos-containing materials.

For the upcoming training schedule please visit our website at:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/training.shtml#asbestos> or call ES at x81450.

LABORATORY GLASSWARE AND SHARPS

The current procedures for the disposal of laboratory glassware are becoming very time-consuming and costly, to both the laboratories and Environmental Services. For these reasons, Environmental Services is issuing new procedures as of November 3, 2003. “Laboratory Glassware” is broken glass or glass that could potentially break and puncture regular waste bags, thus endangering waste handlers. When disposing of laboratory glassware, there are two main types; that which can easily be cleaned and that which cannot, due to the nature of the chemical contamination.

Disposing of Clean Laboratory Glassware

Clean laboratory glassware must be placed in sturdy cardboard boxes, lined with plastic, and marked with the words “Laboratory Glass”. These boxes can be acquired through the Chemistry department stockroom or by calling the Maintenance & Operation’s Help Desk at x81001. The laboratory glassware boxes can only be disposed of if they meet certain requirements. These requirements can be found at:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/pdfs/quicktips/labglass2.pdf>

To ensure that all the proper steps have been taken to eliminate inappropriate waste-streams from the Laboratory Glass box, a “PI Certification” label will need to be affixed to the top of the sealed box, completed and signed by the Principle Investigator or designee. These labels will be distributed along with the Laboratory Glass boxes or by calling Environmental Services (x81450). The Building Managers will be instructed that only the boxes that have this label attached, completed and signed will be picked up.

Contaminated Laboratory Glassware

As stated above, the main reasons why laboratory glassware boxes have been returned to their point-of-generation are visible signs of chemical contamination or odors emanating from the boxes. In general, the visible signs of chemical contamination have been due to metal residue that remains even after rinsing, while the odors have generally been attributed to certain organic chemicals whose strong odor is almost impossible to eliminate. If your laboratory works with such materials and generates such glassware, please DO NOT place the glassware in the laboratory glassware boxes. Instead, please follow these procedures:

- Place the glassware in a separate box**
- Label the box with an NYU Hazardous Waste label
- Indicate on the label “contaminated glassware” and state the materials with which the glassware is contaminated (if you have glassware that is contaminated with mercury compounds, please keep these items separated or call ES).
- When full, take the box to the Waste Room, if you are located in the Main Complex, or contact Environmental Services to arrange for a pickup.

Please remember that any laboratory glass that cannot be sufficiently cleaned or de-odorized should be disposed of as Hazardous Waste through Environmental Services and not placed in the Laboratory Glassware boxes.

**If you think that, as a result of these procedures, your lab will now dispose of more glassware as Hazardous Waste rather than Laboratory Glassware, please contact Environmental Services (x81450) to discuss possible container options for the collection of this waste.

Disposing of Sharps

“Sharps” are any instrument used to puncture, cut or scrape or can cause punctures to waste handlers, students, University personnel or the public. The term “Sharps” now includes the following: hypodermic needles, syringes, pipettes and laboratory slides contaminated with bio-hazardous or infectious materials, scalpel blades, blades, IV tubing with needles attached, lancets, and dental scalers. “Sharps” must be placed in authorized red sharps containers that can be acquired through the building manager’s office.

- **Note:** Glass Pasteur pipettes and slides **NOT** used for bio-hazardous and/or infectious materials may be disposed of in the “Laboratory Glass” box. However any Biology Labs that handle bio-hazardous or infectious materials **ANYWHERE** in the laboratory **MUST** dispose of **ALL** sharps in “Sharps” container. These new procedures can be found at: <http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/pdfs/quicktips/sharps2.pdf>