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## 1. BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy - General and Hazardous Waste

- a. This policy covers general laboratory waste, hazardous (chemical) waste, sharps (including glass) and pipette tips that are not contaminated with biohazardous substances. For biohazardous waste, refer to the BI Laboratory Waste Policy – Biohazardous Waste.
- b. Users must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling laboratory waste. Refer to the BI PPE Policy.
- c. BI users should consult BI staff for any assistance with waste disposal.
- d. Waste disposal procedures are summarized in BI Waste Disposal Charts and located on laboratory doors. Refer to the BI Documentation Policy.

### 1.1. General Waste

- a. General waste is maintained by McMaster Facility Services.
- b. Grey containers are for general waste disposal.
- c. Blue containers are for recyclable materials (e.g. cardboard).
- d. Cardboard boxes should be broken down prior to placement in recycling bin.
- e. Cardboard may also be placed in the north 4<sup>th</sup> floor hallway, near ETB 430.

#### 1.1.1. Uncontaminated Glass Waste Disposal Procedures

- a. Blue and white cardboard boxes labeled as “Broken Glass Disposal” (lined with a plastic bag) are intended for **clean** glass waste. BI staff will replace blue and white cardboard boxes for clean glass waste as needed or requested.
- b. Fill uncontaminated (clean) glass waste containers, no more than 80% full. Inner bag must be tied (if applicable) and container sealed for disposal.
- c. For disposal of uncontaminated (clean) glass waste consult BI staff.

### 1.2. Hazardous Waste

- a. Hazardous substances do **NOT** go down the drain or into general waste, and must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- a. Hazardous waste includes substances that are harmful to the environment, as outlined in RMM #502: Hazardous Waste Management Program.

#### 1.2.1. Hazardous Waste Disposal

- a. Hazardous waste must have a yellow McMaster Hazardous Waste label. Waste labels are available from McMaster Chemistry Stores, ABB B166.
- b. Remove hazardous substances via McMaster Campus Chemical Waste Pickup.
- c. Coordinate Hazardous Waste Disposal with BI staff.
- d. Waste pickup requests are through the submission of Chemical Waste Disposal Form(s): <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/Chem-Waste-Disposal-Form---fillable-1-36.pdf>.

- e. Chemical (hazardous) waste pickup is requested before 4pm on Fridays via EOHSS for Tuesday morning pick-up:  
<http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/Hazardous-Chemical-Waste-Pick-Up-Procedure-1-36.pdf>

### **1.2.2. Liquid and Solid Hazardous Waste Disposal Procedures**

- a. Separate hazardous waste according to type (e.g. liquid or solid) and/or compatibility. Review SDS to ensure proper disposal.
- b. Keep organic halogenated waste separate from organic non-halogenated waste.
- c. Choose an appropriate waste container. Check the chemical compatibility between the waste container and hazardous materials.
- d. Do not mix acids with bases, and flammables with oxidizers.
- e. Contaminated plastic syringes, without needles, are disposed as hazardous solid waste.
- f. For hazardous waste ensure a tightly fitting lid.
- g. Label the waste container with a McMaster Hazardous Waste label.
- h. Do not fill waste containers more than 80% full.
- i. Coordinate Hazardous Waste Disposal with BI staff.

### **1.2.3. Hazardous Glass Waste Disposal Procedures**

- a. 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. Consult BI staff, see above and/or refer to the [BI Biohazardous Waste Policy](#).
- b. Hazardous glass waste should always be enclosed in a puncture proof container or a cardboard box lined with a strong plastic bag for disposal.
- c. Ensure the glass waste container is labeled as “Hazardous Glass Waste” and has a McMaster Hazardous Waste label.
- d. When the glass waste container is 80% full, carefully tie or tape inner bag (if necessary) and seal container. For disposal assistance, consult BI staff.
- e. Alternatively, unbroken hazardous glass waste may be washed and disposed as clean (uncontaminated) glass waste; see above. Ensure hazardous solutions from cleaning do not go down the drain; dispose of as hazardous liquid waste.

### **1.3. Sharps Waste Disposal**

- a. 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. Consult BI staff, see above and/or refer to the [BI Biohazardous Waste Policy](#).
- b. Sharps including needles, syringes with needles, razor blades and scalpels are disposed into biohazardous sharps containers, which are puncture resistant, leak-proof and sealable. Refer to the [BI Biohazardous Waste Policy](#).
- c. Each BI laboratory should have, at minimum, one sharps container.

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- d. BI users should consult BI staff for plastic sharps container locations.
  - e. BI staff will stock BI laboratories with sharps containers as needed or requested.
  - f. When the biohazard sharps container is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, close and/or seal, and give to BI staff for disposal.

#### **1.4. Pipette Tips Disposal**

- a. 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. Consult BI staff, see above and/or refer to the BI Biohazardous Waste Policy.

#### **1.5. Hazardous Waste Documents**

- a. BI Waste Disposal Chart – General & Hazardous.