

### GLASS DISPOSAL – INTACT OR BROKEN

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Broken glass, intact glass (including pipettes, glass slides, coverslips, etc.), and empty glass chemical containers pose a laceration and/or contamination hazard to laboratory workers, custodial staff, and other members of the UNL community. This SOP provides guidance on proper disposal of glass.

- Glass contaminated with biohazards must be properly decontaminated prior to disposal. See EHS SOPs, ***Disposing of Biohazardous Materials Including Recombinant Nucleic Acids***, and ***Sharps – Handling and Disposing***.
- Glass contaminated with radioactive materials must be disposed via EHS. See EHS SOP, ***Hazardous/Radioactive Material Collection Procedures***.
- Glass contaminated with chemicals can be packaged for disposal in accordance with this SOP once it is considered “empty.” See EHS SOP, ***Empty Container Disposal***. Glass that does not meet the definition of “empty” must be disposed via EHS.

Glass should be packaged in a sturdy container, that is labeled as “Glass” (or equivalent wording), and which is securely sealed prior to being transported to a dumpster. Packaged glass shall be placed directly in the dumpster by the person(s) responsible for generating the glass; UNL custodial staff do not handle and dispose of glass.

An example of a proper glass disposal box is shown below. When assembling the boxes, use packing tape to secure the bottom of the box, and use a liner bag on the inside. NEVER use red biohazardous waste bags as a liner. Due to the weight of the glass only fill the box  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, and use a cart when transporting to the dumpster. Do not place liquids in the glass box. When the box is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, seal the bag, tape the box closed, and place directly into a UNL dumpster. Do not empty the contents of box into dumpster. These boxes are intended for a one-time use only. Never reach into box to retrieve items or push down on glass to consolidate.

