



Guidance Note

May 2007

Collecting Scrap Glass in the Laboratory

HWG-033

This information is for your use and as a way of providing consistent information. There is no response required.

Collecting Scrap Glass

Scrap glass must be collected inside a proper waste receptacle. Glass cannot be discarded into the domestic wastebasket because the Environmental Services person who handles this waste could receive a serious injury from coming in contact with a broken piece of glass.

It is acceptable to collect scrap glass inside a sturdy cardboard box with a lid. The following list of glass objects can be collected in a scrap glass box: beakers, jars, flasks, test tubes, tubing, incandescent light bulbs, large glass pipettes and empty reagent bottles that held non-hazardous chemicals.

If there is broken glass or other sharp glass objects that may pierce the cardboard scrap glass box, they must be placed into a secondary container that is puncture resistant (another sealed plastic or cardboard container) before placing it in the scrap glass box.

Once the scrap glass box is full, close the box and tape the lid securely shut. Clearly mark the scrap glass box "broken glass". The Environmental Services staff will pick up the scrap glass box from the laboratory and place it into the trash compactor.

The following guidelines must be observed when collecting scrap glass in the laboratory:

1. Use a very sturdy cardboard box with a lid as the scrap glass box. These may be purchased from laboratory suppliers;
2. Scrap glass must not have had contact with radioactive isotopes or potentially infectious agents (human blood, serum, etc.);
3. Scrap glass must not contain toxic or hazardous chemicals that would present a significant health hazard;
4. Do not discard empty chemical reagent containers that held a hazardous material into the scrap glass box. Such containers must be picked up EH&S (4-0345).
5. Do not discard needles, razor blades, scalpels, Pasteur pipettes, glass slides, batteries, mercury thermometers, or fluorescent lamps into the scrap glass box.