



LABORATORY GLASS

Glass is ubiquitous in research labs, both as glassware (beakers, flasks, pipets, slides, etc) and chemical reagent containers. All glass carries the possibility of breaking and exposing the user to cuts or lacerations, and the secondary hazards of chemical or bloodborne pathogens exposures. Proper disposal of broken and unbroken glass chemical reagent containers is critical for hazardous waste compliance. Practice safe glass handling, cleanup, and disposal.

BROKEN GLASS CLEAN UP AND DISPOSAL

- Immediately dispose of any **clean** chipped or cracked glassware in “Broken Glass” box.
- If a chemical reagent bottle is broken and chemical reagent is present, clean up spill only if you are qualified to do so using lab spill kit. If not, consult you supervisor to determine if EHS (541-346-3192) should be called.
- Place caution sign or object over the broken glass area.
- Put on appropriate PPE.
- Never pick up broken glass with your hands; use either tongs/forceps or broom and dustpan.
- Non-hazardous broken lab glass should be placed in the lab’s “Broken Glass” box.
- Glass contaminated with hazardous materials should be placed in a hard-sided container with a lid and EHS called.
- Never place broken glass in a regular lab trash.
- If the reagent is water-compatible, wet-mop the area to remove find glass shards and dust.
- **Report all injuries** to your supervisor immediately!
- In an emergency called **911** and **UOPD** (541-346-2919) for immediate assistance.

UNBROKEN GLASS DISPOSAL

- Place glass beverage bottles in the zero waste stations around the University, not in “Broken Glass” containers.
- For proper disposal of an empty chemical glass container (liquid or solid): 1) **Deface label** using sharpie or tape, 2) **Triple-rinse** and collect rinse as hazardous waste, 3) Recycle bottle in glass waste if compatible OR place inside plastic bag or cardboard box, seal with tape, and dispose of in regular trash.



Store glass objects away from unguarded shelf or counter edges.



Use lab spill kit to clean up contents of broken chemical reagent bottle.



Cleaned & defaced lab glass bottles must be placed in the lab’s broken glass box or possibly recycled (if unbroken and made of recyclable glass).

