

SAFE USE OF SHARPS

IN THE LABORATORY, STUDIO, & SHOP

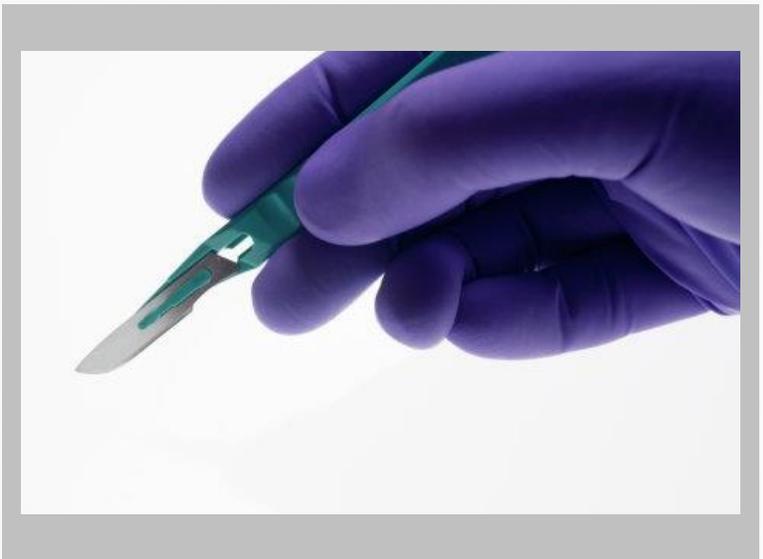
DEFINITION

Sharps are items that can easily cut or pierce the skin. Examples include:

- Needles and needle-syringe units
- Razor blades
- Scalpels
- Broken glass, plastic, or metal
- Glass or plastic pipettes or pipette tips

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- If plastic is an option, use it instead of glass
- Inspect glassware and do not use if chipped, starred, or cracked
- Work in a well-lit and uncluttered space
- Do not work if distracted or ill
- Consider rounded or blunt-end devices
- Consider cut-resistant gloves or double gloves
- Handle broken glass or other sharp objects with forceps, not with bare hands
- Put away sharps after use. Do not leave on bench top.
- Do not bend, shear, break, recap or otherwise manipulate needles by hand
- Consider needles that automatically re-sheath
- Keep a sharps container nearby and follow manufacturer's instructions for use
- Protect sharps or use verbal warnings when passing from one person to another



DISPOSAL

- Infectious sharps and ALL needles/needle-syringe units must be discarded into a purchased red plastic biomedical waste container. They cannot go into the normal trash.*
- Do not overfill a sharps box. Use forceps to remove protruding sharps if necessary before sealing the box.
- Use an appropriately sized container. Never force materials in or attempt to retrieve sharps
- Report a full or overfull box to your supervisor immediately
- Discard uncontaminated broken glass and other uncontaminated sharps into a rigid container lined with a plastic bag. Seal it when full and place into the normal trash.

**Refer to the USF Biomedical Waste Plan for more information about needle and infectious sharps disposal*