





How and Where to Dispose of Waste in the Biology Lab

Students are often confused as to how to dispose of their lab waste in the science labs at Mat-Su College. This is understandable, since there are four (4) choices of container to choose from located at different points around the room. It is important to get the waste into the correct container because the college disposes of the produced waste using different companies/outlets. Please review this guide and then pass the information along to your students. These lists are not exhaustive, but should give you a good idea of what can go where. If you have any questions, contact:

Science Lab Manager, Mat-Su College, x9341

 <p style="text-align: center;">Regular Trash</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Broken Glass</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Biohazardous Waste</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Sharps Container</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular, student-generated waste (broken pencils, scratch paper, etc.) • used gloves* (unless bio-haz) • paper towels used for disinfecting bench tops at the beginning/end of lab • dissected specimens from either Carolina Biological Supply Co. or Wards Scientific Supply Co. • lens cleaning tissues/Kimwipes • bibulous paper • used <u>disposable</u> plastic pipettes 	<p>USED FOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cracked beakers, flasks, etc. • broken beakers, flasks, etc. • broken thermometers • broken prepared slides • used Pasteur pipettes • broken crucibles • stained bacteria slides <p>EXCEPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chemical contaminated glassware when the chemical used is a health hazard (like phenol), reactive, etc. <p>IF UNSURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set the damaged glassware in a place where it will not be a hazard to others (will not drip, etc.) • leave a note for others using the lab • contact the science lab manager (x9341) 	<p>USED FOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broken glassware that has come into contact with concentrated microbes (e.g. a broken tube of <u>E. coli</u> broth, etc.) • blood soaked gloves, paper towels, etc. • used toothpicks that have been in the mouth (gathering epithelial cells, etc.) • used cotton swabs that have come into contact with concentrated microbes (e.g. an agar plate of <u>S. marcescens</u>) • animal feces used in Vett. classes <p>CLOSE THE BOX WHEN FULL! NEVER PRESS DOWN ON THE WASTE IN A BIOHAZARD BOX TO MAKE ROOM: YOU COULD CUT YOURSELF!</p>	<p>USED FOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waste micropipette tips • used needles • broken scalpel <u>blades</u> • broken/waste razor blades <p>NOTHING ELSE GOES IN THE SHARPS CONTAINERS: THEY ARE EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE.</p> <p>DO NOT CLOSE THE SHARPS CONTAINER IF IT IS NOT FULL: BY LAW THEY MUST BE DISPOSED OF ONCE CLOSED, EVEN IF EMPTY.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The scalpels we use generally have replaceable blades. Check before disposal. (a used blade = \$0.50; a replacement scalpel handle = \$7.00)</p>

If you do end up disposing of broken lab glassware, prepared slides, et cetera, please let the science lab manager know so that it can be replaced. Thanks!