Environmental Safety Division
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Sharps Disposal Guide

In Georgia, sharps are classified as biomedical waste and **CANNOT** be thrown into the regular trash. As of January 2019, the ESD Hazardous Materials Team has a sharps disposal program. This program is intended for small quantity sharps generators (about 1 gallon per month max) without a departmental sharps program.

ESD Sharps Guidelines
- Any sharps contaminated with biohazardous substances or agents must be autoclaved prior to submitting a pickup request. Please attach an autoclave indicator strip to the container to verify that the container has been properly autoclaved.
- Do NOT overfill sharps containers. Sharps containers should not be filled past designated fill lines.
- Sharps containers must be intact and snapped closed prior to pickup

Free sharps disposal containers (1qt, 3qt & 5qt) are available through ESD. Please call (706) 542-5801 or email hazmat@uga.edu to request a sharps container.

Acceptable Items
- Scalpels
- Razor Blades
- Needles
- Syringes
- Biohazardous Glassware
- Microscope Slides

Non-Acceptable Items
- **ANY** Liquids
- Broken Thermometers
- Mercury of Any Kind
- Tubing
- Vials (blood vials, scintillation vials)
- Light Bulbs
- Solvent/Chemical Bottles
- Chemically Contaminated Debris (use designated red can)
- Any Paper Material

Chematix Instructions

Sharps can be submitted for pickup through the Chematix system similarly to submitting a hazardous waste pickup. Please be sure to affix Chematix Waste Tag to sharps container.
- Go to chematix@uga.edu and login with username/password
- Go to waste tab and select "Create Waste Card" and "SHARPS" link
- Select lab location, contents, and container size, then select "Generate Waste Card"
- Return to waste tab and select "Create Waste Pickup Worksheet"
- Select lab location and all waste cards ready for pickup
- Select "Add Selections to Worksheet" and then "Submit Waste for Pickup"