Using Glass in the Lab

- Handle and store glassware carefully
- Properly discard or repair damaged items
- Use adequate hand protection
- Substitute glass with plastic or metal products whenever possible
- For vacuum work, use only glassware designed for that purpose. Inspect glassware carefully before each use.

Handling Broken Glass

- Wear appropriate PPE and hand protection
- Use a broom and dustpan to sweep small pieces
- Place items in the laboratories glass disposal box.

Glass Disposal

Working with glass and disposing of used or broken glassware are a leading cause of laboratory injuries. Extra precaution must be taken when disposing of glassware to prevent anyone handling the waste from a potential injury from a piece of broken glass.

Glass Waste Box

An approved VWR Glass Disposal box or a sturdy cardboard box can be utilized to properly dispose of non-contaminated glass waste. Laboratories MUST ensure the following:

- The box is properly labeled as “Glass Trash” and lined with a non-red bag.
- Bottles/containers must be free of liquids and all labels defaced.
- Keep the weight under 20 lbs.
- Once the box is full, tape it shut and place next to regular trash.

Discarded glassware MUST NOT contain any hazardous chemical, medical, pathological, or radiological waste.

Contaminated Glassware

Glassware contaminated with chemical, medical, pathological, or radiological waste must be disposed of according to the contaminates disposal process.

Glassware containing:

- Chemical contaminated waste must be disposed in the appropriate solid waste containers.
- Blood, pathological, or biological waste must be disposed of in the appropriate sharps or Stericycle red-bag waste containers.
- Radiological waste must be disposed of in appropriate radiation disposal containers.

For questions or concerns please call DEHS at 852-6670 or email dehsubm@louisville.edu