

SHARPS

Sharps are ubiquitous in animal care. Needles, broken glass, syringes, pipette, scalpels -- all are commonly used in animal facilities and laboratories. Puncture-resistant and leakproof containers for sharps should be available at critical locations in the facilities. Improper disposal of sharps with regular trash may expose animal care and use and custodial staff to wounds, and, potentially, to infectious agents and hazardous chemicals. State and municipal regulations are specific in the requirements for proper disposal of "sharps." Kansas State University policies and procedures on the proper disposal of "sharps" may be found at the web site of the Department of Environmental Health & Safety: <http://www.ksu.edu/psafe/envhealth/>

Basic rules to remember:

- Never recap needles after use - have a "sharps" container nearby.
- Dispose of syringes, needles, glass, vials, and scalpels in a "sharps" container only.
- If you cut yourself, perform first aid immediately. Report the incident to your supervisor. If you can safely identify the source of your injury, do so.

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