**MEDICAL SHARPS**
- Items designed to cut or puncture skin
- May or may not be biohazardous
  - Needles
  - Syringes with needles
  - Scalpels
  - Tissue punch
  - Lancets
  - Razor blades
  - Hematocrit tubes

**DISPOSAL CONTAINER**
- Sharps container meeting OSHA & DNR standards
- Labeled with Biohazard symbol
- Lidded, engineered to not spill contents when used properly
- Puncture-proof, Leak-proof

**DISPOSAL PROCEDURE** *
- Carefully dispose medical sharps into container
- Fill to the marked “fill line”
- Never overfill or force objects into a sharps container
- When full, dispose into MERI collection bin in your area/building
- MERI will inactivate and dispose appropriately
- Disinfection of items or autoclaving of full sharps containers is unnecessary

**NON-MEDICAL SHARPS & SHARP LABWARE**
- Labware or items which may cut skin or puncture waste bags when discarded
- May or may not be biohazardous
  - Serological pipets
  - Pipet tips
  - Pasteur pipettes
  - Slides and coverslips
  - Broken glass or plastic
  - Fragile glass labware

**DISPOSAL CONTAINER**
- Sturdy, leakproof container
- Cardboard box with 1-2 plastic liners or autoclaveable bin with 1-2 autoclave bags
- Limit to 20 lbs (9 kg) full weight

**DISPOSAL PROCEDURE** *
- Empty item of contents by appropriate disposal method
- If biohazardous, decontaminate before disposal or dispose in autoclaveable container
- Autoclave when full then proceed as below.
- When disposal containers are full, close inner liner, close box securely
- Label the box e.g., “Glass for Disposal”
- Attach “OK to Trash” label
- Set in appropriate location for custodial pick-up for regular trash disposal

**EMPTY CONTAINERS**
- Unbroken glass or plastic containers
- No biohazard present
  - Petri dishes, decontaminated
  - Unbroken, plastic tubes
  - Empty bottles
  - Microliter plates, decontaminated

**DISPOSAL CONTAINER**
- Sturdy trash container

**DISPOSAL PROCEDURE** *
- Must not have biohazards, radioactive material or gross chemicals present at time of disposal
- Empty item of contents, and rinse, if appropriate
- Must not have sharp edges which may puncture waste container or skin
- NO BROKEN GLASS
- Dispose into trash container
- Place trash containers in regular trash or in appropriate location for custodial pick-up for trash disposal

* Disposal procedures may be different in some campus buildings. OK to Trash stickers are not used at all campus buildings; follow your building’s disposal procedures

**BSL 3 laboratories must inactivate medical sharps prior to disposal into MERI bins; follow the Lab’s BSL3 Manual**