

January 2011 SCS Safety Newsletter

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- **Laboratory Housekeeping**
- **SHARPS**



<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.savagechickens.com/images/chickenflames.jpg>

Laboratory Housekeeping:

Poor laboratory housekeeping is one of the most noted safety violations in SCS research laboratories. A clean, organized laboratory is much safer than a cluttered, disorganized laboratory. Acceptable laboratory housekeeping includes the following:

Properly label all containers (including the full, common name of the chemical, date first labeled, and owner's initials).

Wipe up all spills as soon as possible after the spill occurred.

Maintain bench tops and hoods free of clutter.

Maintain chemical hazards at least two inches from the edge of bench tops.

Maintain exits, aisles and safety equipment free of all obstructions.

Aisles within the laboratory should be 36 inches in clear width. Doors which are not in use but which are accessible from a corridor or adjacent room should be appropriately labeled if they are blocked on the interior of the room. Hallways are not to be used as storage areas. Work areas and floors are not to be used for excessive storage.

SHARPS:

The Division of Research Safety has noted that many recent SHARPS containers picked up by DRS waste staff have included inappropriate items. The following chart details which laboratory items are considered a SHARP.

<p>ALWAYS dispose of these items in sharps disposal containers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any medical needles• Syringe barrels (with or without needles)• Pasteur pipettes• Scalpel and razor blades• Blood vials• Microscope slides and coverslips• Glass contaminated with infectious agents	<p>NEVER dispose of these items in sharps disposal containers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic items (except for syringes)• Beverage containers• Non-biologically contaminated laboratory glassware• Solvent/Chemical bottles• Light bulbs• Any paper materials• Pipette tips• Plastic pipettes• Aerosol cans or can of any type• Scintillation vial• Any item with liquid (except for blood in vacutainers)
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To dispose of a SHARPS container:

When a sharps disposal container is full, complete the online Sharps Collection Request form at <http://www.drs.illinois.edu/sharps/>

The container will generally be picked up within three working days of the request.

To obtain a new SHARPS container:

Sharps disposal containers are available from Campus Stores at no charge to the laboratory or department. Call 244-0139 or e-mail your request to cstores@illinois.edu. The containers will generally be delivered within two working days of the request.

For more information consult the SHARPS fact sheet at:

<http://www.drs.illinois.edu/bss/factsheets/pdf/HandlingAndDisposalOfLaboratorySharps.pdf>