

Sharps Injuries Are Preventable

Occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens from needlesticks and [other sharps injuries](#) can occur in research laboratories, clinical healthcare settings, and other areas on campus. Recapping needles, rushing through a procedure, and not being properly trained are a few examples of recent needlestick injuries that have occurred at Yale. It is always important to ensure you are following proper safety procedures, whenever you are handling sharps:

- Use [safe sharps](#) (e.g., retractable needles, shielded needles, syringes with a sliding sheath that shields the attached needle after use).
- Ensure your knowledge and practice is adequate for the procedure. If you are unsure on the correct use of the sharp, do not attempt to use it without first receiving training.
- Use a conical centrifuge tube or other needle holder if a needle must be reused.
- [Discard the needle and syringe](#) as an intact unit in the needle box immediately after use.
- Replace sharps containers when they are 3/4 full to prevent overfilling.
- Minimize the handling of all sharps. Use [plastic alternatives](#) whenever possible.



If you are accidentally stuck by a used needle or other sharp, follow the [incident response procedure](#) and [workers' compensation process](#). [Contact your safety advisor](#) for incident response cards and signage.



Spotlight on Good Laboratory Safety Practices

A researcher experienced a high-risk puncture exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials. They immediately washed the exposed area with soap and water for 15 minutes. After washing, they texted their principal investigator and lab manager to report the event. They called Yale EHS to report the incident. Yale EHS checked to make sure they washed, notified their own lab leaders, and instructed them to call the Employee Health or Acute Care Departments. The EHS responder also called the Employee Health nurse's station to alert them of the incoming call and need for post-exposure response assistance. The researcher was provided with an appointment 45 minutes after the incident occurred. They were evaluated and provided with post-exposure prophylaxis, which was started immediately.

Reporting Spills

Report any spills on your protective clothing or within the lab to your principal investigator and to your [EHS Safety Advisor](#) or the EHS emergency phone line at 203-785-3555.

Disposing of Refrigerant-Containing Laboratory Devices

When a lab is moving, downsizing, or redecorating there are often devices that are no longer needed. All too often, labs move into new spaces and find the previous lab group left large, inconvenient devices to be disposed of by the new tenants. Devices containing refrigerants and large molecule gasses that are regulated under the [Clean Air Act](#) must have the refrigerant gasses removed before it can go out for recycling or landfilling. The process for removing those gasses is called “reclaiming” and it needs to be performed by a licensed refrigerant technician.



Most commonly we see Lab refrigerators, -80c freezers, freeze dryers, and freeze desiccators that need to be disposed of, but there are other lab devices that have refrigerants that need to be reclaimed before they can enter the waste/recycling stream.

These are just a few examples of lab equipment that may contain refrigerants that need to be reclaimed before disposal. A good standby rule is: if it has a liquid nitrogen line, it may have a backup refrigerant circuit that needs to be reclaimed.



Refrigerant-Containing Laboratory Devices Disposal Process

START: remove all research material. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire device.

Step 1: Affix a biosafety notice to the device.
Available at ehs.yale.edu

Step 2: Move the device to the disposal area OR contact TR&S to move the device to the loading dock.

Step 3: Submit a Facilities Work Request for refig appliance- Laboratory with the description RECLAIM.

END: RF technicians reclaim the refrigerant and tag the device as reclaimed.

Step 2 Yale Environmental Health & Safety

BIOSAFETY NOTICE

This equipment's exterior and interior surfaces were decontaminated, and are free of any Biological Hazards. This notice does not apply to radiation or chemical hazards (if any).

This equipment is released for: (Circle one)
Service/Repair Relocation Discard

Decontamination performed by: _____
Chemical or disinfectant: _____
Date of decontamination: _____
Location of equipment: _____
Lab telephone number: _____

Note: The following areas of this equipment remain contaminated and a biohazard warning label has been attached near the contaminated area. Additional forms are available through Environmental Health & Safety at 785-3300.

Step 3 Yale
Facilities Work Request

(* = Required)

[Instructions for Request Submission](#)

Emergency? Call the Facility Operations Center (203) 432-6888.

Please submit one form per request.

Location *

Description *

Work Type *
Refrig Appliance Repair - Laboratory

Priority on phase
 URGENT (Estimated response within 4 days)
 ROUTINE (Estimated response within 14 days)

Register for Innovator Toolkit Workshops

The [Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale](#) (Tsai CITY) aims to inspire students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to seek innovative ways to solve real-world problems. Launched in 2017, Tsai CITY serves students from across Yale's campus through programs, funding, and mentoring. They are building a new kind of innovation center, one rooted in inclusivity: here, students from all backgrounds tackle issues like climate change and civic engagement, develop creative projects from documentary films to digital platforms, and launch high-growth ventures and movements.

Tsai CITY is hosting a series of upcoming [Innovator's Toolkit Workshops](#), an interactive workshop series in which attendees will collaborate with experts from diverse disciplines to develop and apply skills critical for innovation, creative exploration, and civic change-making. All Innovator's Toolkit workshops are free and open to the public. The workshops take place at the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale, 17 Prospect Street.

Innovator's Toolkit: Research for Innovators

Wednesday, January 24th, 4:30-7:30 pm at the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale

Join us for an interactive workshop guiding you through research strategies for every stage of the process (exploratory research, market research, funding research), as you learn to validate your idea. **Please invite your colleagues to attend with you!** ([Register here](#))

Innovator's Toolkit: So You Want to Launch a Creative Tech Start up?

Wednesday, February 7th, 12:00-2:00 pm at the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale.

Whether you're a creative looking for a tech co-founder, or a tech co-founder looking to meet creatives, join us for an interdisciplinary workshop exploring how to launch your creative tech platform. ([Register here](#))

Innovator's Toolkit: Ambition to Action: Embedding Social Impact in Startup DNA?

Wednesday, February 21st, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale.

This dynamic workshop will allow you to explore how various stakeholders within a company can both champion social impact internally and measure their social impact footprint as a business, whether you're interested in creating a startup with social impact from day one or advancing social impact within an existing corporation. ([Register here](#))

If you have any questions, please contact the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale at city.support@yale.edu.