

Safety Guide for Glass Collection/Recycling for NASWA

I. Collect Glass Safely from Residents

It is important to create a glass collection system that minimizes residents' exposure to broken glass.

A. Provide a safe area for residents to drop off their glass.

- a. Create a clear path to the glass collection area and make sure it's clean of any broken glass.
- b. Make the glass collection bin easily accessible to people of all abilities.
- c. Clearly mark the glass recycling bins. See Figure 1. for NASWA's glass recycling sign.
- d. Eliminate risks from broken glass. Ask residents and staff to place glass containers in the recycling bin instead of throwing them in. This minimizes flying shards that have the potential to injure residents and/or staff. Broken glass on the ground or floor also poses a threat to anyone at the site.
- e. If glass inadvertently gets broken, it's important to make sure that it gets cleaned up immediately.



Figure 1. NASWA's Glass Recycling Sign

Tips for Cleaning Up Broken Glass

- Place a cone or some other warning sign to alert residents and staff to the broken glass area.
- Use a long-handled grabber for picking up big pieces of broken glass and dispose of as trash.
- Use a broom or small rake with a dustpan for cleaning up smaller pieces of broken glass on the ground or floor and dispose of as trash.

II. Post Glass Safety Sign at Site

Be sure to create and post a glass safety sign or poster to remind staff to remain safe when collecting and handling glass. See Figure 2. for NASWA's glass safety poster.

III. Use of Personal Protection Equipment by Staff

Use of personal protection equipment (PPE) is a must for staff who are responsible for moving, or handling the collected glass. This includes:

- Cut-proof gloves are necessary. Ordinary insulated gloves are not good enough protection from getting cut.
- Safety glasses with side shields are preferable.
- A long-handled grabber used for handling or picking up glass containers and removing contaminants from the glass collection bin.



Figure 2. NASWA Glass Safety Poster

IV. Moving Containers of Collected Glass

A forklift should be used to move any full containers of glass. If barrels are used for the glass collection bins, staff should avoid rolling them to the storage area to avoid back injuries.