

Waste Management & Disposal – Radioactive



EH&S Fact Sheet
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ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH & SAFETY

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<http://capsnet.usc.edu/ehs/>

Any waste that is contaminated with radioactive materials is categorized as radioactive waste and must be disposed of properly. The following are categories in the radioactive waste stream and must be segregated according to half life.

Short Half-Life: Less than 15 days Examples: P-32 and I-131	Moderate Half-Life: 15 days to 90 days Examples: S-35, P-33, Cr-51, I-125	Long Half-Life: Greater than 90 days Examples: H-3 and C-14
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Dry

- Glass tubes, paper, rubber, empty stock vials, gloves, pipette tips, etc. All symbols and letters referencing radioactive materials must be defaced with a permanent black marker prior to disposal.
- No free-standing liquids.

Aqueous or Organic Liquid

Liquids must be in and approved non-breakable, one-gallon containers.

Liquid Scintillation Waste

- Vials containing liquid scintillation cocktail are disposed of in approved 15-gallon plastic containers. No dry waste such as gloves, paper towels, etc. should be present in the same container.
- Scintillation waste should be segregated according to regulated or deregulated categories. Regulated vials are those containing any radionuclide other than H-3 and C-14 such as P-32, P-33, Cr-51, I-125, S-35, etc. Deregulated scintillation waste contains H-3 and C-14 only.

Aqueous Vials

Vials containing free-standing stock solutions must be segregated into approved non-breakable containers.

Sharps

Needles, Pasteur pipettes, razors, and other sharp objects must be disposed of in a radioactive labeled Sharps container.

Radioactive Waste Containing Biological, Pathogenic, or Infectious Materials

Urine, blood, and blood cells segregated and frozen in approved containers.

Animal Carcasses/Tissues

Freeze carcasses and tissues from animals that were fed, injected, or infused with radioactive materials prior to sacrifice.

Animal Wastes and Bedding

Segregate waste and bedding from cages housing animals containing radionuclide(s). Dispose as separate dry waste.

Lead

Lead pigs and other lead containers must be segregated from other radioactive waste for disposal. A special lead waste pick up should be arranged.

Go to <http://capsnet.usc.edu/EHS/HazWastePickUpForm.cfm> to request a pick up.

If you have any questions you can contact Radiation Safety at: (323) 442-2200.

EH&S Fact Sheets are intended for facilitating team discussions in your department. Post the monthly topic on your departmental bulletin board.