



Environmental Health and Safety  
Radiation Safety Program

Collecting and Disposing of Radioactive Waste

Preparing a Radioactive Waste Storage Container for the Lab and Radioactive Waste General Rules

This following information is applicable for dry, solid waste and liquid scintillation vial waste

- Any common trash container may be used for radioactive waste storage.
- A radiation warning sticker has to be put on the trash container.
- Label the trash container with the name of the radioisotope being stored
- Put a liner in the trash container.
- Add two bags in addition to the liner
  - Radioactive waste must be double bagged when being moved from the lab for disposal.
- ONLY  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  can be stored together in the same trash container
- All other radioisotopes must be separated into individual trash containers.
  - Separate  $^{32}\text{P}$ ,  $^{33}\text{P}$ ,  $^{35}\text{S}$ ,  $^{125}\text{I}$  or any other radioisotope
  - Do not place these isotopes in the same waste container.
  - A separate radioactive waste container must be prepared for each isotope.

Dry, Solid Radioactive Waste

- NO liquids, NO damp towels, NO flasks, beakers or tubes with a small amount of liquid in the bottom may be put in the trash container that is used to store dry radioactive waste.

Liquid Scintillation (LSC) Vials

- Vials that use non-regulated scintillation fluid MUST NOT be mixed with vials using RCRA hazardous scintillation fluid.
  - Non-Regulated                      RCRA Hazardous  
Redi-Safe                              Toulene  
Econosafe                              Tissue digester fluid  
Optima Liquid Gold
- If you are unsure whether or not LSC fluid is hazardous, Contact Radiation Safety at 545-2682

Liquid Waste Disposal

- Disposal of non-hazardous liquids via the sanitary sewer is allowed
  - the sink may be used to dispose of any radioisotope
  - aqueous liquids ONLY
  - use ONLY sinks that have radiation warning signs
  - make sure the sink disposal is tallied on your inventory sheet
- NO ORGANIC SOLVENTS or LSC SCINTILLATION FLUID may be poured down any drain
- NO liquids waste containing uranyl acetate, uranium nitrate, thorium oxide or other heavy metal compound may be poured down a laboratory drain.