

SOP-7 RADIOACTIVE SOLID WASTE

- The Radiation Protection Specialist (RPS) is responsible for the collection and disposal of all radioactive waste and associated materials.
- Wastes which are not correctly identified by the user/generator will be returned.
- Any Dumpster disposal of Radioactive Waste by laboratory personnel is strictly prohibited.
- The weight limit for a solid waste bag is 25 pounds.

Procedures for Generators of Solid Waste:

1. Solid radioactive wastes must be collected in the yellow Radioactive Waste bags provided by Laboratory Services (LS). Bags should be securely closed with zip ties. The “Radioactive Materials” tag attached to the container must be completed, including:
 - Material I.D. (Radioisotope),
 - Principal investigator (PI) or an appointed designee, and,
 - Current Date
2. Form DHS-014, “Request for Disposal of Radioactive Materials” must be completed, submitted to the RPS (Campus mail, hand delivered, fax 5480), and approved prior to waste collection.
3. The radioactive liquid waste description must include the following information: Chemical components of the waste, and, Relative amounts of any chemicals present in the waste, identified +/- 1% of the total volume.
4. Radioactive-Biological Waste which is pathogenic or infectious must be autoclaved or disinfected prior to disposal.
5. Solid radioactive waste must be segregated by radionuclide and chemical compatibility (if applicable)
 - Use separate waste containers for Organic (burnable) Waste and Inorganic (Metals, Glass, etc.) waste.
 - Solid waste containers offered for disposal must not contain standing fluids.
 - Solid waste plastic bags are to be filled no more than 75% full to allow for adequate closure.
 - Sharp objects, puncture hazards, and broken glass are to be packaged separately from burnable and other non-burnable wastes, segregated by nuclide, and contained in a puncture and leak proof sealable container.
6. Containers offered for disposal must be clearly labeled with a “Caution - Radioactive Material” tag, including generator name, radionuclide and date.
7. After properly packaging the material for disposal, contact LS to arrange for pickup.

Procedures to be followed by the RPS:

1. Inspect the packaging of the solid waste offered for disposal in accordance with the criteria and packaging requirements listed above.
 - Ensure that each package is dated, and labeled with the radioisotope and the PI's name.



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- Add the waste Control # to the package and form.
- 2. Review the completed Form DHS-014, "Request for Disposal of Radioactive Materials". Ensure the form is signed and complete, with all necessary information provided.
- 3. During the transfer of waste that can contaminate any nearby materials, especially gamma emitters or high energy beta emitters, use a properly shielded waste transport container.
- 4. Transport the collected wastes to the Radioactive Waste Facility while awaiting analysis and/or disposal.
- 5. All "Request for Disposal of Radioactive Materials" forms are maintained in LS.
- 6. Notify the Laboratory Safety Specialist whenever any collected Radioactive Waste meet the EPA criteria of a Mixed Low Level Radioactive Waste