

## RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

1. Radioactive waste is accepted for disposal by Radiation Safety on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Advance appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling 828-9131.
2. Segregate and package radioactive waste according to type as described in the MCV/VCU [Radiation Safety Guide](#).
3. Radioactive waste in red bags will **not be accepted for disposal**. This includes solid waste, scintillation vials, animals, and biological waste.
4. Solid waste must be completely dry - no liquid is allowed. Do not dispose of non-radioactive materials in radioactive waste. Place all sharp objects in puncture-proof containers. Contaminated lead pigs must be packaged separately from other waste. All solid waste must be segregated by isotope whenever possible. Dry solid waste should be transported in bags strong enough to prevent any splitting. These bags should be closed and labeled with what isotopes are in the bags. Contact Radiation Safety if there are questions about segregation by isotope.
5. Radiation Safety will accept **no more than 10 trays of scintillation vials (~1000 vials)** during any one waste appointment. Scintillation vials can be disposed in their original shipping trays or bagged separately from the solid waste. Scintillation vials should be segregated by isotope. If the vials are in plastic bags, the bags should not be overloaded so they may be lifted and transported without splitting open. Utilize double bags or extra heavy duty bags as necessary. The bags should be labeled with the isotope inside the bags.
6. Radiation Safety will accept **no more than 20 liters of liquid waste** during any one waste appointment with **no more than 8 liters in any one container**. If glass bottles are utilized for disposal purposes, they must be transported in protective holders. Lids to the liquid waste containers should be tightly closed. Bleach should be added to liquid containers prior to disposal. Scintillation fluors and other organic solvents must be kept separate from water-soluble liquids. **Be prepared to provide the total activity of  $^{32}\text{P}$ ,  $^{35}\text{S}$ , or  $^{125}\text{I}$  liquid waste when calling for your disposal appointment.**
7. Animal carcasses and other biological wastes **should be frozen prior to disposal** (whenever possible) and packaged separately from other solid wastes. Additionally, animal carcasses containing  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  must be segregated from carcasses containing other isotopes.
8. Deactivate potentially infectious agents in radioactive waste prior to disposal. **Remember: radioactive waste in red bags will not be accepted for disposal.**

#### LABS IN SANGER HALL

1. Research laboratories inside Sanger Hall will be responsible for bringing their waste to the Radiation Safety Office Cold Room, Sanger Hall, Second Basement, Room B2-011, at their designated appointment time.
2. A completed [Radioactive Waste Disposal form](#) must be presented with the waste at each appointment. Keep a copy of the waste form for your records.
3. Whenever possible, utilize the freight elevator to transport waste to the Sanger Hall collection site. Always wear appropriate lab attire including lab coats when transporting radioactive waste.

#### LABS OUTSIDE SANGER HALL

1. The Radiation Safety Office will pick up the waste from locations other than Sanger Hall and transport to Radiation Safety.
2. All packaging requirements are as above in the general guidelines. **If waste is not properly packaged at time of appointment, it will not be picked up.**
3. Research labs in locations other than Sanger Hall will make appointments with the Radiation Safety Office, and will ensure that someone is available to meet Radiation Safety staff at their location at the appointed time. As the Radiation Safety staff often has several appointments back-to-back which may affect their schedule, please make arrangements to be at the location 5-10 minutes before and after the appointment time. If no one is at the location, a reasonable attempt will be made by Radiation Safety staff to contact the posted contact at your location. **If you are not available, or cannot be reached, your waste will not be picked up, and you must contact Radiation Safety to reschedule an appointment.**
4. After scheduling a waste appointment, but no later than 3PM the day prior to the appointment, Radiation Safety must receive by FAX (828-1157) the completed Radioactive Waste Form (typed and signed) and a legible copy of the printout of swipes taken on the outside of any waste containers to be picked up and a background swipe. **If these two items are not received by 3PM the day prior to the appointment, waste will not be picked up, and you must contact Radiation Safety to reschedule an appointment.**