



# RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

## Indiana University - Bloomington

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### Waste Preparation

1. Deface all radioactive labels before placing items in radioactive waste.
2. Inactivate any viable biological material (e.g., viral/bacterial/recombinant cell structures or animal or human cells/tissues/fluids) before placing items in radioactive waste.
3. Separate radioactive waste by radionuclide and physical form ( $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  may be combined).
4. Place solid waste in thick plastic bags (appropriate bags are available at Biology & Chemistry stores). Do NOT use "Biohazard" red bags.
5. Place all "sharps" (including needles, razor blades, capillary tubes, and pipettes) in a puncture proof container.
6. Place all source vials and lead "pigs" in a plastic bag separate from other solid waste.
7. Place aqueous liquids in plastic jugs. Place organic liquids (flammable or corrosive) in glass jugs. Appropriate 4L and 6L plastic jugs are available in Chemistry and Biology stores.
8. Empty cocktail from liquid scintillation (LSC) vials into a container separate from other liquid waste (screen filters and other solid material from the cocktail). Place empty LSC vials in plastic bags separate from other solid waste.
9. Attach a COMPLETED radioactive waste tag to each separate item of waste. Tags are available at Biology & Chemistry stores.

### Transport of Waste to Radioactive Waste Room

1. Contact the Radiation Safety Specialist to schedule a waste appointment.
2. Ensure that all waste items are secured on a cart prior to transport (glass containers of liquids must be placed INSIDE a secondary container).
3. Do NOT transport P-32 waste until after 30 days of in-lab storage.
4. Wear lab coat but NOT disposable gloves when moving waste cart outside of lab.
5. Use the freight elevator (not the passenger elevator) and inter-building tunnels (not outdoor sidewalks) in moving carts to the waste room.

**To Schedule a Waste Appointment or  
For Information on Radioactive Waste Management contact:**

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