

# The “Dos” and “Don’ts” regarding Radioactive Waste Disposal

- Do place all potentially contaminated items in radioactive waste containers. Place contaminated items in either a radioactive waste container supplied by the Safety Office or a Plexiglas waste container.
- Don’t place contaminated or radioactive items in the red bag waste or general trash. This includes contaminated gloves, paper towels, gels, etc.
- Don’t place tritium or C-14 waste in red bags or bags with the BioHazard symbol.
- Do separate radioactive waste types when placing in radioactive waste containers. The four types of waste are dry solid, liquid, scintillation vials, and animals.
- Don’t place scintillation vials in the same radioactive waste container as the dry solid waste.
- Do separate short-lived radioactive material from long-lived radioactive material to save money for the lab. The short-lived radioactive isotopes are P-32, S-35, I-125, Cr-51, P-33, While the long-lived radioactive isotopes are H-3 and C-14.
- Don’t mix short-lived radioactive waste such as P-32 with long-lived radioactive waste such as H-3 or C-14.
- Do separate all short-lived radioactive material according to half-life and discard in separate waste containers.
- Don’t mix short-lived radioactive material with different half-lives together. Segregate radioisotopes according to half-life.
- Do use a “Radioactive Waste Ticket” when requesting the pickup of radioactive waste from your laboratory.
- Don’t use a chemical waste disposal form for requesting a radioactive waste pickup. If in doubt call the Safety Department at 2243 for guidance.