



# SHORT LIVED DRY WASTE

Read below for information about safe packaging, labeling and disposing of short lived dry radioactive waste.

## DESCRIPTION

Short lived dry, solid waste consists of laboratory waste such as gloves, paper towels, pipette tips, glassware, empty stock vials, and other items contaminated with short lived radioactive material (i.e., the half-life of the material is less than 120 days).

## STORE

Typically a 2.25 cubic foot sturdy cardboard box with a plastic liner inside is used to store radioactive waste material. Radiation Safety can provide labs with an appropriate waste box and liner.

Place the waste box in a posted and secure radiation storage area. Use appropriate shielding as necessary (e.g., plexi-glass box or lead).

Remove or deface all radioactive symbols and labels on items before disposing them in the waste box. Sharps should be placed in a stronger inner container and then placed into the waste box.

Short lived waste may be stored in a lab's radiation storage location, or can be transferred to Radiation Safety for a storage and disposal fee.

## PACKAGE

Seal the inner lining with a zip tie or tape. Seal boxes with strong tape.

## LABEL

Fill out the label on the waste box. Be sure to include all nuclides, activities, PI name, location and date.

You may also want to include an estimated final disposal date 10 half-lives from the current date.

## DISPOSE

Short-lived radionuclides can be disposed once they have decayed. Waste is considered decayed after 10 half-lives have passed and no measurable activity above background is detected with an appropriate survey meter.

A trained radiological worker in your lab should do the survey and check that the waste has no radioactive symbols or labels before disposing.

To arrange a pick-up of radioactive waste, complete a [Radioactive Waste Collection Request](#).

## MINIMIZE

Use good judgement and discretion to dispose of only waste that is likely contaminated. Waste minimization is to the benefit of the environment and helps in reducing the cost of disposal.

**Please contact EH&S Radiation Safety at 206.543.0463 or [radsaf@uw.edu](mailto:radsaf@uw.edu) for more information.**