

DISPOSAL PROCEDURE FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE

1. With one other person (the “buddy”), bring the specially designated radioactive waste disposal cart, to your laboratory. This cart is stored in Room S101.
2. Place radioactive materials to be discarded e.g. scintillation vials, dry waste or liquid waste (in designated jars) on this cart. **Note:** Sharps waste (e.g. needles, blades, Pasteur pipettes, broken glassware) is separated out and put in a covered plastic jar, labeled **SHARPS RADIOACTIVE WASTE**. All waste needs to be identified with: the date, the isotope and the rough amount of radioactivity (for more details, see IRSP Manual – website given below and link to the Laboratory Hazardous Waste Management (LHWM) Manual).
3. To minimize contamination, the buddy does not directly handle any of the radioactive discards. The buddy is responsible for accompanying the person who handles the waste directly, and opens doors, uses the elevator key and records the discards on the log sheets in S101 (see below).
4. The waste materials are brought down to room S101 (see #3 above) and placed in the appropriate locations (dry waste goes in the drums): liquid waste jars; scintillation vials (in boxes); and any sharps waste in jars are left on the shelves.
5. The buddy records the information requested on the discard record sheet. The sheet is located on the clipboard on the shelf near where the vials and jars are placed.
6. Swabs of the following are taken and counted:
 - a. An unused swab as background
 - b. If used, the doorknob leading to the elevator
 - c. Elevator button
 - d. Floor immediately outside of S101
 - e. Doorknob for Room S101
 - f. Light switch for Room S101
 - g. Floor inside Room S101
 - h. Shelves touched by you in Room S101
 - i. The disposal cart
 - j. A C¹⁴ standard (available in the counter itself)
7. Further details on counting swabs and other procedures can be found in the Ionizing Radiation Safety Policies and Procedures (IRSP) Manual, which can be found as a link from <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/our-services/radiation-safety/>. Further details on radioactive and sharps waste disposal can be found in the LHWM Manual.