

RADIOACTIVE LIQUID WASTE

Read below for information about safe packaging, labeling and disposing of radioactive aqueous liquid waste.

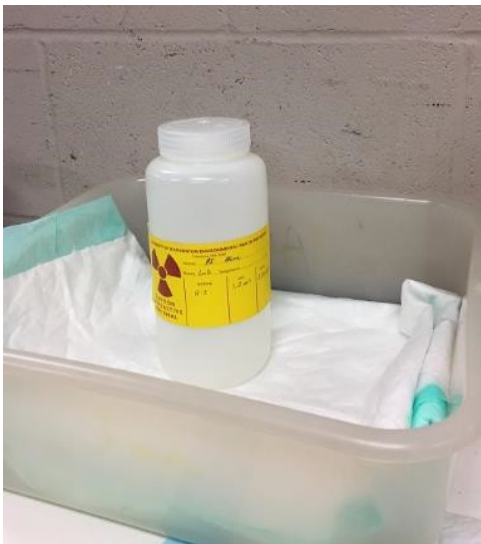
DESCRIPTION

Liquid waste consists of aqueous liquid containing radioactive material within a pH range of 6-9.

Aqueous liquid may not contain chemical that are specifically listed, or exhibit characteristics of flammability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity.

STORE

Bulked liquid should be stored in a strong plastic container. Place the container in secondary containment with absorbent pad lining. Label containers with a radioactive sticker (see photo).



Keep the waste container as close to your work area to minimize chance of spilling. When not working place waste in a posted and secure radiation storage area. Liquid waste containers must always be securely closed when not in use.

Liquid waste that includes organic solvents, or other hazardous material is considered [mixed waste](#).

Segregate waste by isotope and ensure short-lived liquid waste (materials with a half-life of less than 120 days) are stored in a separate container. Short lived liquid waste may be disposed after 10 half-lives and the waste is surveyed to determine that radioactivity is indistinguishable from background.

LABEL

Ensure container is properly labelled with information about the liquid, concentrations, isotope(s), activity, and a "Caution Radioactive Materials" sticker.



DISPOSE

Contact Radiation Safety to arrange for disposal of liquid waste by completing complete a [Radioactive Waste Collection Request](#).

Disposal through Radiation Safety is the preferred method, however labs are allowed to dispose of a limited amount of aqueous liquid in the sewer. Authorized labs are granted a sewer allowance each quarter:

- H-3: 1,000 μ Ci
- C-14: 200 μ Ci
- I-125: 100 μ Ci

Records of all sink disposals must be maintained by each PI, and all sinks that are used for the disposal of liquid waste must be labelled.

[Liquid scintillation fluid](#) is not considered aqueous and should always be collected by Radiation Safety and not disposed of via sewer.

Please contact EH&S Radiation Safety at 206.543.0463 or radsaf@uw.edu for more information.