



# SPECIAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE PROCEDURES

## SHARPS WASTE

- 1. Definition:** Radioactive "Sharps" waste includes radioactively contaminated hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), scalpels, and razor blades.
  - Broken glassware and pipette tips are not considered "Sharps Waste."
- 2. Sharps waste must be segregated by:**
  - Isotope.
  - Biological classification:
    - Biohazardous – containing human or primate blood products or recombinant DNA.
    - Non-biohazardous – all other sharps.
- 3. Prohibited items:**
  - Lead or other hazardous materials.
  - Plastic or glass pipette tips - dispose as solid waste.
  - Broken Glassware – dispose as solid waste.
- 4. Disposal procedure:**
  - Place in a puncture resistant container.
  - Place the puncture resistant container in a thick (~3 mil) clear plastic bag. Tape or tie closed.
  - Complete and sign a waste tag.
  - Transport within a secondary container.
  - Use a sturdy cart for transport.
  - Take NON-BIOHAZARDOUS sharps to the nearest radioactive waste pick-up location at the designated time.
  - Take BIOHAZARDOUS SHARPS to the Radiation Safety Laboratory (CHS A6-060C) for freezer storage.

## LEAD WASTE

- 1. Lead waste consists of:**
  - Lead pigs.
  - Lead bricks.
  - Lead sheeting and foil.
- 2. Segregate as follows:**
  - Uncontaminated lead - all radioactive markings and symbols must be defaced.
  - Contaminated lead.
- 3. Prepare for transfer:**
  - Contaminated lead:
    - Place in a thick (~3mil) clear plastic bag.
    - Double bag.
    - Securely close the bag with a tape or knot – NOT the wire from the waste tag.
    - Complete and sign the waste tag.
  - Uncontaminated lead:
    - Place in a sturdy container or cardboard box.
    - All radioactive labels must be defaced.
- 4. During transport:**
  - Use a sturdy cart to transport lead waste.
  - Apply adequate shielding, if necessary.
  - Take the waste to the nearest radioactive waste pickup location at the designated time.
  - Use freight elevators, if possible.

## HIGH ACTIVITY LONG-LIVED (>90 Day Half life) WASTE

- 1. High Activity Long-lived (>90 Day Half-life) wastes are:**
  - Stock vials with remaining activity and high concentration solution > 100 uCi/ml.
  - Stock vials without remaining activity may be disposed of as solid waste.
- 2. Segregate by isotope.**
- 3. Prepare for transfer:**
  - Stock vials must be tightly capped.
  - Double bag in thick (~3 mil) clear plastic bags.
  - Securely close with tape or knot.
- 4. During transport:**
  - Assure the high activity waste is securely packaged and shielded.
  - Use a sturdy cart.
  - Take stock vials with unused activity to the nearest radioactive waste pick-up location at the designated time.

### NOTE

Sealed sources and calibration sources often require special packaging and handling. Please contact the RSD for specific information.