Radioactive waste contains aqueous liquid; dry/solid; scintillation vials; organic liquid; sharps; and animal carcasses, and grouped according to short, mid, and long term half-lives of the radioisotopes.

The containers illustrated on the next page are designated for certain radioisotopes as well as waste types. EH&S provides these containers to researchers. **NOTE: DO NOT use biohazard red bags for disposal.**

### Aqueous and Organic Liquids
- Decant radioactive liquid waste into liquid container provided by EH&S only.
- Cap liquid container tightly after each use.
- Mark the Date and Radionuclide on each bottle.

### Vials Containing Unabsorbed Liquids
- Place vials with scintillation cocktails in drum.
- **DO NOT** include other solid waste with the vials.

### Solids
- Collect solid waste into the appropriate waste containers. One isotope, one container.
- **DO NOT** mix solid waste with liquid waste.
- Ensure that each container has an adhesive radiation waste label attached.

### Pathologica colloirs
- Place frozen animal carcasses and tissue samples in brown paper bags and keep in freezer until waste pick-up is arranged. The freezer is considered a container for EHSA records.

### Sharps
- Fill sharps container to the Capacity Line. **DO NOT** exceed the line.
- Close cap when full.
- Label sharps container with an adhesive sticker that reads “Radioactive Material”.

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**References**
- USC Radiation Safety Manual: Chapter 7.6 and 7.7 – Waste disposal and record keeping [http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/428](http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/428)

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**What I Need to Know...**
- Keep waste containers capped/covered when not actively being used.
- Contact EH&S for proper waste management and disposal or to request supplies.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment when handling hazardous waste.

**Update Inventory/Request Waste Pickup via EHSA**
- Log into the EHSA online inventory to update waste container content information.
- Seal the container(s), scan containers for contamination with a survey meter, and record contamination survey results.
- Print two (2) copies of the EHSA waste report.
- Keep one for lab records; attach the other to the waste container.
- To arrange a rad waste pick-up, follow instructions on the "Radiation Module – Waste Pickup" slide at: [http://tiny.cc/usc_ehs_radPickUp](http://tiny.cc/usc_ehs_radPickUp).
- Once rad waste container/content is picked up, create a new container number in EHSA to record usage.

**Remember:**
- **DO NOT** fill liquid containers completely. Leave enough head space to allow for expansion.
- **DO NOT** exceed the “fill line” of sharps containers.
- **DO NOT** commingle dry waste with vials.
- **DO NOT** pour radioactive liquids down the sink for disposal.
All radioactive waste must be segregated according to the following categories. **NOTE:** Different isotopes cannot be mixed in the same container. To arrange for rad waste pickup, follow instructions on EHSA "Radiation Module – Waste Pickup" slide at: [http://tiny.cc/usc_ehs_radPickUp](http://tiny.cc/usc_ehs_radPickUp).

### Dry Material
- Petri dishes
- Glass tubes
- Plastic pipette tips
- Gauze, paper towels, plastic-backed absorbents or bench coat, etc.
- Contaminated gloves and other personal protective equipment.
- Waste from cages where animals injected/infused with radionuclides are housed.

### Aqueous and Organic Liquids
- Liquids must be in non-breakable and compatible containers provided by EH&S.

### Vials Containing Unabsorbed Liquids
- Liquid scintillation cocktail in vials only. DO NOT dispose of dry material in container.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Vials (RV)</th>
<th>De-Regulated Vials (DRV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P-32; Si-32; P-33; S-35; Cl-36; Cr-51; I-125</td>
<td>C-14; H-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sharps
- Needles
- Razor blades, scalpels
- Any contaminated material that can puncture/penetrate the skin or Red Bag.

### Pathologicals
- Keep frozen animal carcasses or tissues from animals injected/infused with radionuclides prior to sacrifice.
- Place carcasses/pathological tissues in brown paper bags; **DO NOT** use sealable plastic bags. Keep in freezer until ready for pickup.

### Lead Pigs
- Segregate from regular radioactive waste for special pick up.

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**CONTAINERS FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL**

HSC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wooden Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short half-life: P-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UPC*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal Drum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderate half-life: I-125; S-35; Cr-51; P-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long half-life: C-14; H-3; Si-32; Cl-36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* Dry, liquid, and scintillation vial wastes at UPC are generated in larger volumes than HSC and, hence, require larger waste containers.