

Radioactive Waste General Guidelines

The Environmental Health and Radiation Safety Department (EHRHS) manages all facets of radioactive waste disposal at Temple University and Temple Health System.

Requirements for radioactive waste generators

- Restrict access to any radioactive material including waste to only authorized personnel.
- Only EHRHS personnel are authorized to remove radioactive material including waste from labs.
- Unauthorized or accidental removal of the radioactive material (including waste) must be reported to EHRHS immediately.
- Radioactive waste must be segregated by radioisotope and physical form. For example:
 - Separately collect P-32 dry waste and H-3 dry waste.
 - Separately collect P-32 dry waste, P-32 liquid waste, and P-32 sharp waste.
- Minimize the volume and activity of radioactive waste.
- Properly store and label radioactive waste by including PI's name, date, lab location, isotope, and activity.
- Submit a [Radioactive Waste Collection Request](#) online through the EHRHS web page.



Quick Take

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General precaution for radioactive waste handling

- Maintain lab-specific procedures for waste accumulation and disposal by trained and authorized lab personnel.
- To prevent a spill, fill the waste bag or container up to 75% of its capacity.
- Minimize radiation exposure from radioactive waste by placing waste containers as far away from personnel as possible.
- Further minimize radiation exposure from radioactive waste by using a plexiglass shielding for high-energy beta emitting waste (i.e., P-32) or a lead shielding for gamma emitting waste (i.e., I-125).
- Keep a log of activity and date when the waste is deposited into the container.
- Use smaller bench top waste receptacles as needed, i.e., a radioactive sharp container.