

Prior to pick-up by DRS, each container must have a completed *Radioactive Waste* tag attached to it. These tags are available from DRS. Appendix B gives instructions for completing these tags. When waste has been properly prepared, log on to DRS website at: <http://www.drs.illinois.edu/radiationsafetyapp/Waste/PickupRequest.aspx/> and complete the online pickup request.

8.2 Liquid Scintillation Counting Vials, Glassware, and Plastic Containers

Empty liquid scintillation counting vials that contained media with a concentration of C-14 or H-3 less than 0.05 micro-Curie per milliliter ($\mu\text{Ci/ml}$) need not be decontaminated and should be disposed of with the regular, non-radioactive solid waste. Ensure that vials have been properly emptied and “radioactive material” labels have been removed or defaced.

Used vials may be decontaminated by washing; alternatively, emptying and then discarding into the appropriate radioactive waste container is acceptable. Segregate wastes by radionuclide half-life (≤ 120 days and > 120 days).

Most glass items (e.g., test tubes, dishes) can be decontaminated by routine washing or an overnight soaking with an industrial-strength detergent and re-used.

8.3 Radioactive Sharps

Radioactive sharps are hazardous items that require special precautions and handling. If the following items have come into contact with radioisotopes, dispose of them in containers specifically designed for sharps that bear a *Caution–Radioactive Material* label listing isotope and date:

- Needles and syringes,
- Pasteur pipettes,
- Scalpels and razor blades,
- Microscope slides and coverslips,
- Glassware that cannot be decontaminated.

Sharps containers are closable, puncture-resistant, leak-proof on the sides and bottoms, and are typically available in 1-quart, 2-gallon, and 8-gallon sizes.

Most glassware, such as liquid scintillation vials and test tubes, is easily decontaminated as described in section 8.2 and should not be routinely discarded as sharps.

When sharps containers are full and properly tagged, enter the appropriate information for pickup and disposal on DRS website at <http://www.drs.illinois.edu/>.