



CAUTION:

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL



LABORATORY SAFETY PRACTICES:

1. **Never eat, drink, smoke, etc., and never pipette by mouth, in isotope use areas.**
2. Never store isotopes with food or drink (or cups, etc.), incompatible items, or bulk flammables.
3. Never leave items related to food, etc., in any isotope work area, e.g., in any waste receptacle.
4. *A laboratory coat and gloves (latex, etc.) should be worn when using isotopes (button the coat).*
5. **Wash your hands promptly after isotope use, before eating, and before leaving the lab.**
6. Hands, shoes and clothing should be surveyed after isotope use, before leaving the workplace.
7. *Use isotopes in a hood, unless benchwork is approved for the isotope, activity and protocol used.*
8. Use isotopes on a tray (or on any impervious surface for a few ml); *cover it with absorbent paper.*
9. When using isotopes, survey the area whenever contamination is suspected; always survey at least daily, unless weekly survey is approved for the isotope and activity used. *Clean up any "hot spots."*
10. For external radiation, *utilize time, distance and shielding* to reduce exposure whenever possible.
11. *Wear your radiation badge around radiation (& ring if using isotopes); store these in office areas.*
12. Dispose solid radwaste in an approved radwaste container, **in one labeled with the isotope.** Dispose bulk liquid radwaste in the "hot sink" (**nonflammable true solutions \leq monthly limits**).
13. **Record promptly:** all receipts, all dispensing for use, and all disposals and transfers of isotopes.
14. Each isotope transfer – *to or from another GWU user or off-campus* – requires RSO approval.
15. *Label all isotopes as required, except containers attended or posted; deface labels upon disposal.*
16. **Lock all isotope storage areas (freezers, etc.) whenever possible, and always at the end of the day. Always lock the doors of any isotope lab, at the end of each day, and whenever leaving a lab when isotopes are in use or unlocked. Report any lost stock!**
17. Report all isotope ingestion, spills and losses to your supervisor *and* to the Radiation Safety Office.
18. Before using isotopes, all lab staff: must know all radiation safety rules, and all relevant protocols; must pass the Radiation Safety Office "Hazards Exam." *Review radiation safety rules frequently.*
19. Always comply with NRC regulations, University radiation safety rules, and approved protocols.
20. *In any emergency involving isotopes, call the Radiation Safety Office 4-2630*