

Working Safely with

^{32}P

Radiation Safety

(216) 368-2906

Phosphorus 32 Quick Facts

Principal emission:
1.709 MeV beta

Half Life: 14.29
days

Shielding: 1 cm
acrylic

Body badge:
required

Ring badge:
required when using
>0.5 mCi

Safety Precautions:

- Always wear gloves and a lab coat when working with any radioisotope.
- Body badges are required to be worn when using ^{32}P . If quantities greater than 0.5 mCi are used in a single experiment (including when aliquoting) then a ring badge should also be worn.
- Work should be carried out behind 1 cm thick acrylic shielding.
- ^{32}P is easily detected by a Geiger counter. Check your hands often for contamination when working with ^{32}P and immediately dispose of contaminated gloves. Survey your work area, floor, equipment and yourself for contamination after every experiment.
- Waste generated from ^{32}P should be stored in a covered acrylic waste container. Separate solid, liquids, and vial waste.