

36. COMMONLY USED RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

Table 36.1. Revised November 1993 by E. Browne (LBNL).

Nuclide	Half-life	Type of decay	Particle		Photon							
			Energy (MeV)	Emission prob.	Energy (MeV)	Emission prob.						
$^{22}_{11}\text{Na}$	2.603 y	β^+ , EC	0.545	90%	0.511 Annih. 1.275 100%							
$^{54}_{25}\text{Mn}$	0.855 y	EC			0.835 100% Cr K x rays 26%							
$^{55}_{26}\text{Fe}$	2.73 y	EC			Mn K x rays: 0.00590 24.4% 0.00649 2.86%							
$^{57}_{27}\text{Co}$	0.744 y	EC			0.014 9% 0.122 86% 0.136 11% Fe K x rays 58%							
$^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$	5.271 y	β^-	0.316	100%	1.173 100% 1.333 100%							
$^{68}_{32}\text{Ge}$	0.742 y	EC			Ga K x rays 44%							

	\rightarrow	$^{68}_{31}\text{Ga}$	β^+ , EC	1.899	90%	0.511 Annih. 1.077 3%						
$^{90}_{38}\text{Sr}$	28.5 y	β^-	0.546	100%								

	\rightarrow	$^{90}_{39}\text{Y}$	β^-	2.283	100%							
$^{106}_{44}\text{Ru}$	1.020 y	β^-	0.039	100%								

	\rightarrow	$^{106}_{45}\text{Rh}$	β^-	3.541	79%	0.512 21% 0.622 10%						
$^{109}_{48}\text{Cd}$	1.267 y	EC	0.063 e^- 0.084 e^- 0.087 e^-	41% 45% 9%	0.088 3.6% Ag K x rays 100%							
$^{113}_{50}\text{Sn}$	0.315 y	EC	0.364 e^- 0.388 e^-	29% 6%	0.392 65% In K x rays 97%							
$^{137}_{55}\text{Cs}$	30.2 y	β^-	0.514 1.176	94% 6%	0.662 85%							
$^{133}_{56}\text{Ba}$	10.54 y	EC	0.045 e^- 0.075 e^-	50% 6%	0.081 34% 0.356 62% Cs K x rays 121%							
$^{207}_{83}\text{Bi}$	31.8 y	EC	0.481 e^- 0.975 e^- 1.047 e^-	2% 7% 2%	0.569 98% 1.063 75% 1.770 7% Pb K x rays 78%							
$^{228}_{90}\text{Th}$	1.912 y	6α : $3\beta^-$:	5.341 to 8.785 0.334 to 2.246		0.239 44% 0.583 31% 2.614 36%							

	$(\rightarrow$	$^{224}_{88}\text{Ra}$	\rightarrow	$^{220}_{86}\text{Rn}$	\rightarrow	$^{216}_{84}\text{Po}$	\rightarrow	$^{212}_{82}\text{Pb}$	\rightarrow	$^{212}_{83}\text{Bi}$	\rightarrow	$^{212}_{84}\text{Po}$)
$^{241}_{95}\text{Am}$	432.7 y	α	5.443 5.486	13% 85%	0.060 36% Np L x rays 38%							
$^{241}\text{Am/Be}$	432.2 y	6×10^{-5} neutrons (4–8 MeV) and $4 \times 10^{-5}\gamma$'s (4.43 MeV) per Am decay										
$^{244}_{96}\text{Cm}$	18.11 y	α	5.763 5.805	24% 76%	Pu L x rays \sim 9%							
$^{252}_{98}\text{Cf}$	2.645 y	α (97%) Fission (3.1%)	6.076 6.118	15% 82%								

$\approx 20 \gamma$'s/fission; 80% < 1 MeV ≈ 4 neutrons/fission; $\langle E_n \rangle = 2.14$ MeV												

“Emission probability” is the probability per decay of a given emission; because of cascades these may total more than 100%. Only principal emissions are listed. EC means electron capture, and e^- means monoenergetic internal conversion (Auger) electron. The intensity of 0.511 MeV e^+e^- annihilation photons depends upon the number of stopped positrons. Endpoint β^\pm energies are listed. In some cases when energies are closely spaced, the γ -ray values are approximate weighted averages. Radiation from short-lived daughter isotopes is included where relevant.

Half-lives, energies, and intensities are from E. Browne and R.B. Firestone, *Table of Radioactive Isotopes* (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1986), recent *Nuclear Data Sheets*, and *X-ray and Gamma-ray Standards for Detector Calibration*, IAEA-TECDOC-619 (1991).

Neutron data are from *Neutron Sources for Basic Physics and Applications* (Pergamon Press, 1983).