

Spotlight On Safety

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Empty Containers

Empty containers that have been used to store chemical materials can only be discarded in trash receptacles if the chemical has been completely removed. Please follow the guidelines below when discarding chemical materials containers.

1. *Removal of Container Contents*

Liquid Containers

Ensure that liquid cannot drain from the container if it is tilted in any direction. Triple rinse the container. If the liquid in the container is an acute or extremely hazardous chemical, you **must** dispose of the container as hazardous waste through WASTE.

Solid Containers

Scrape the interior clean so that no build-up remains. Examples include powder, sludge, grease, thick resin, and crystals. Dispose of the interior contents through WASTE.

Gas Containers

Use or empty the contents of aerosol cans as completely as possible.

2. *Deface the Label*

- Cross out label information with a large dark marker, or otherwise deface the label and label the container as “Empty”.
- It must be obvious that the container does not hold the original material.

3. *Container Re-Use*

While the reuse of empty glass or plastic containers can be re-used, there are some exceptions:

- Do not reuse metal cans for hazardous waste storage.
- Never re-use a container that has contained pesticides.
- Do not re-use a container that held acutely hazardous or extremely hazardous chemicals.

4. *Container Disposal*

- For containers that held acutely hazardous or extremely hazardous chemicals, contain residual solids, or gas containers (aerosol cans or compressed gas cylinders) that are not completely empty, submit a waste pickup request through WASTE.
- Empty compressed gas cylinders should be returned to the vendor. Aerosol cans that are completely empty can be placed in regular trash.

For more information visit www.ehs.ucr.edu or call 951-827-5528 if you have questions.