

Fact Sheet

Empty Containers

Empty containers that had been used to store hazardous chemical materials must be specially handled in order to ensure safety and to protect the environment. These containers can only be discarded in trash receptacles if they have been completely cleared of the hazardous chemical waste. Please follow the guidelines below when discarding of hazardous chemical materials containers.

1. Empty the Container *Based on whether your container held a liquid, solid or gas (aerosol can or compressed gas cylinder)*

Liquid Containers

First, ensure that liquid cannot drain from the container if it is tilted in any direction. If the liquid was an acute or extremely hazardous chemical, you must dispose of the container as hazardous waste. For more information on hazardous waste disposal, visit:

<http://ehs.ucr.edu/waste/>



Solid Containers

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



Gas Containers

Use or empty the contents of aerosol cans as completely as possible. Compressed gas cylinders should be returned to the supplier whenever possible.



2. Deface the Label

- ✓ Cross out label information with a large dark marker, or otherwise **deface the label**.
- ✓ It must be obvious that the container does **not** hold the original material.



3. Dispose of the Container

While the reuse of empty glass or plastic containers is suggested, there are some **exceptions**:

- ✗ Do not reuse metal cans for hazardous waste storage.
- ✗ NEVER reuse a container that has contained pesticides.

Glass or Plastic Containers (Equal to or less than 5 gal/20L)

Place in a trash dumpster.

NOTE: Pesticide containers should first be destroyed so that they are not reusable. Afterward, they may be placed in a trash dumpster.



Metal Containers

(Greater than 5 gal/20L)

Deface the label, mark the container with the date emptied and take the container to the scrap metal collection bin at [Material Management](#) for recycling.

(Less than or equal to 5 gal/20L)

These containers do not need to be marked with the date emptied; they can either be recycled or placed in a trash dumpster.



Other

- ♦ Aerosol cans that are completely empty can be placed in a trash dumpster.
- ♦ For containers that held acutely hazardous or extremely hazardous chemicals or that contain residual solids, or gas containers (aerosol cans or compressed gas cylinders) that are not completely empty, submit a hazardous waste pickup request for the container using the Online Tag Program.



Additional Resources:

- ❖ See the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Empty Containers Fact Sheet: http://ehs.ucr.edu/waste/DTSC_Empty%20Containers%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf
 - ❖ Hazardous Materials website: <http://ehs.ucr.edu/hazardousmaterials/>
- ❖ For information regarding hazardous waste and waste pickup services, visit: <http://ehs.ucr.edu/waste/>
 - ❖ Material Management website: <http://matgmt.ucr.edu/equipment/equipment.html>
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