

## Empty Chemical Container Disposal Procedures:

Empty chemical containers which are **5 gallons or less** are exempt from being managed as a hazardous waste as long as they are completely empty.

### What is Empty?

Containers containing liquids are considered empty if no further material can be poured from them. A container that held a non-pourable material is considered empty if no material remains that can be removed by scraping or chipping. Empty chemical containers should be disposed in the regular trash.

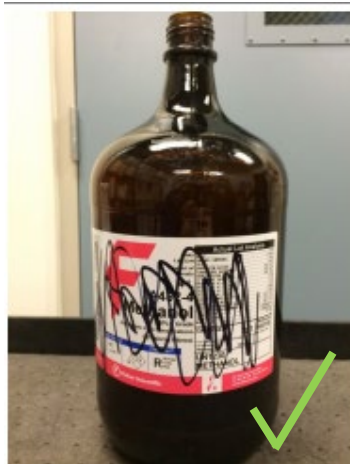
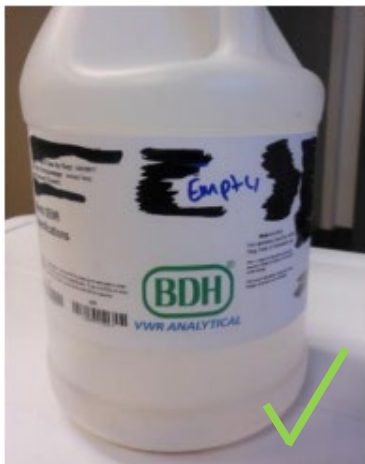
### Are there any empty chemical containers that cannot go in the trash?

Yes, any chemical container that previously held a [P-listed \(acutely toxic\) substance](#) as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must be managed as a hazardous waste. These containers should not be rinsed and should be placed directly into the Satellite Waste Accumulation Area for pick up by EHSREM. A [list of acutely toxic \(P-listed\) substances](#) is available on the [EHSREM Hazardous Waste Program webpage](#).

### What should I do with chemical containers when they are empty?

Before placing the container in the trash, however, it must meet the following requirements:

- Make sure the container is empty in accordance with the definition above.
- Rinse the container using minimal amounts of water (or solvent if appropriate) and pour the rinseate into the appropriate waste disposal container. Then rinse the container twice more, using minimal amounts of water.
- Cover or deface the label. Defacing the label requires that you cover all hazard information as well as the chemical name completely. Alternatively, you may place a blank label or paper over the container label and write the word "Empty" on the label.
- Place the empty container into a black garbage bag or sealed box before placing in the dumpster outside your building. This will prevent the perception by others who may be unaware of regulations and exemptions that chemicals are not being properly managed.



### Questions?

Contact the Environmental, Health, Safety, Risk and Emergency Management Office at (512)245-3616, or visit us at <https://www.fss.txst.edu/ehsrm/>