

EMPTY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CONTAINER RECYCLING PROCEDURES

Most plastic containers and glass containers (that held solvents, acids or bases) are recyclable. It is very important to appropriately dispose of empty hazardous material containers to avoid concerns as to whether there are still any hazards present. These containers must be empty and dry, with no chemical residue. If the rinse (water or other suitable solvent) used to clean a container is hazardous, it must be collected as hazardous waste and disposed of accordingly.

NOTE: If residue remains in the container after triple-rinsing (by means of rinsing with a suitable solvent, inverting, shaking and/or scraping) and the residue is hazardous, it must be disposed of as hazardous waste. It cannot be recycled. Bear in mind that these containers will ultimately be hand sorted by recycling employees.

PLASTIC CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Triple-rinse and recycle all uncontaminated plastic chemical containers (with defaced labels)

Procedures:

- Remove, clean and discard lid.
- Triple-rinse container with water, or suitable solvent.
- If rinse is hazardous, it must be collected as hazardous waste and discarded accordingly.
- Deface the label (use a pen to mark an 'X' through the original contents, or rip the label off) and write 'Rinsed Bottle' on it.
- Place clean and dry plastic in recyclables bin.

Not acceptable:

Hard plastic (e.g. lids or trays)

GLASS CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Triple-rinse and recycle uncontaminated glass chemical containers that held solvents, acids or bases (with defaced labels)

Procedures:

- Remove, clean and discard lid.
- Triple-rinse container with a suitable solvent.
- If rinse is hazardous, it must be collected as hazardous waste and discarded accordingly.
- Deface the label (use a pen to mark an 'X' through the original contents, or rip the label off) and write 'Rinsed Bottle' on it.
- Place clean and dry glass container in recyclables bin.

Not acceptable:

- Lab glassware (e.g. beakers, test tubes)
- Broken glass

Broken Glass:

Place all uncontaminated broken glass in a sturdy, puncture-resistant container (e.g. cardboard box). Once full, seal the container and label it 'Broken Glass' and place for disposal along with normal building garbage.