STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
Proper Disposal of Empty Chemical Containers

Disposal procedures for empty chemical containers depend on the previous contents. Containers of pourable contents must be completely emptied, in other words, no significant amount of the contents should remain. Containers of thick or solidified materials must be scraped out or drained until no more than one inch of material remains on the bottom of the container or no more than 3% of the original weight of the contents remains. Chemical containers that meet these criteria are considered empty and may be disposed of through normal trash collection procedures, if the sole active ingredient of the previous contents was not acutely hazardous. If containers are not or cannot be emptied or if they contain acutely hazardous waste, submit request for waste disposal via CEMS http://cems.uta.edu to EH&S. Also, 20 L (5 gal) containers must be submitted to EH&S as waste.

Step 1: Deface (or remove completely) the original label on the empty chemical container;

Step 2: Mark the container as “empty” on CEMS or remove the UT Arlington inventory barcode and attach it to the laminated sheet “UTA BARCODES OF THE EMPTY CONTAINERS” found on the lab wall;

Step 3: Triple rinse the empty chemical container with water or other appropriate solvent (acetone, propanol, ethanol, etc.) pouring the rinse solution into appropriate (labeled as Non-Halogenated, Halogenated, or Heavy Metal Waste) 10 L Nalgene Waste Container provided by EH&S;

Step 4: Place the open container into a Fume Hood to dry completely (at least overnight);

Step 5: Discard (or re-cycle) the container as regular trash or re-use for laboratory needs.