

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 in 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) metal 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:



UTA BARCODES OF THE EMPTY CONTAINERS

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TO UPDATE YOUR CHEMICAL INVENTORY, SEARCH FOR SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS), OR REQUEST WASTE REMOVAL VISIT
[HTTP://CEMS.UTA.EDU](http://cems.uta.edu)

Step 3: Triple rinse the empty chemical container with water or other appropriate solvent (acetone, propanol, ethanol, etc.) pouring the rinse solution into

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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: If it's a glass container, recycle or discard it into the Box for Broken Glass if available or regular trash, or re-use for laboratory. Recycle or discard **non-glass** container(s) as regular trash or re-use for laboratory needs.