

EPA Definition – Empty Hazardous Waste Container

1. A container or an inner liner removed from a container that has held any hazardous waste, is empty if:
 - I. All wastes have been removed that can be removed using the practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container, e.g. pouring, pumping, and aspirating, *and*
 - II. No more than 2.5 centimeters (one inch) of residue remain on the bottom of the container or inner liner, *or*
 - a. No more than 3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container or inner liner if the container is less than or equal to 119 gallons in size; or
 - b. No more than 0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container or inner liner if the container is greater than 119 gallons in size.
2. A container that has held a hazardous waste that is a compressed gas is empty when the pressure in the container approaches atmospheric.
3. A container or an inner liner removed from a container that has held an acute hazardous waste listed is empty if:
 - I. The container or inner liner has been triple rinsed using a solvent capable of removing the commercial chemical product or manufacturing chemical intermediate;
 - II. The container or inner liner has been cleaned by another method that has been shown in the scientific literature, or by tests conducted by the generator, to achieve equivalent removal; or
 - III. In the case of a container, the inner liner that prevented contact of the commercial chemical product or manufacturing chemical intermediate with the container, has been removed.

Empty Chemical Container Management

- It is the responsibility of the OEHS to approve the disposal of chemical containers. Contact the OEHS prior to disposing any chemical container.
- Empty containers that held acutely toxic hazardous wastes (P-list) are managed as hazardous waste and given to OEHS for disposal. **DO NOT TRIPLE RINSE**. Keep the containers closed at all times. These are collected and disposed of by the OEHS.
- Empty containers of highly odoriferous materials like -thiols or mercaptans must also be given to OEHS for disposal to avoid creating odor issues in the lab or hallways. Empty containers of odoriferous materials should be placed into a bag and stored inside a fume hood until OEHS collects them for disposal. Contact OEHS for disposal.
- All other containers - cross out original label with black marker and place your initials legibly on container.
- Remove and discard caps, place container in box designated for glassware disposal. When the box is full, secure the lid and tape it to the box. Place them in the hallway. The Custodial department removes these boxes.