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**EMPTY CHEMICAL CONTAINER DISPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Empty chemical containers can contain residual amounts of chemicals. In an effort to ensure that this residue is handled properly and to be able to recycle or properly dispose of these containers, the following procedure must be followed.

**All aspects of this procedure will be performed by chemical user except for the emptying of the recycling bins and the broken glass containers, which will be performed by OPP Custodial Services.**

**Rinse procedure:**

All chemical containers, liquid or solid, must be rinsed 3 times before being discarded. A rinse should consist of minimal water being used to rinse the container. The first rinse should be collected as chemical waste, it can be put into any waste container of compatible chemicals, the second and third rinses can then go down the drain. If the chemical is an [acutely hazardous waste](https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/acutely_hazardous_waste.docx), do not rinse the container. These containers should be disposed as chemical waste through EHS.

Ensure that plenty of water is used to flush the material down the drain. After the containers are rinsed they can be discarded appropriately as described below. All caps should be left off of the discarded containers and the chemical name should be crossed or blacked out prior to being discarded. Caps may be discarded into the regular trash.

**Reuse/ Recycle/ Disposal of Cleaned Containers:**

• **All chemical containers must follow the above rinse procedure before being discarded or reused.**

• EHS supports the re-use of empty chemical containers as chemical waste containers as a form of recycling.

• Metal containers or any plastic containers, plastic tubing, or plastic beakers that do not meet the recycling criteria can be discarded into the regular trash.

• Glass containers, glass tubing, glass pipettes or glass beakers that do not meet the recycling criteria or that are broken should be placed into the broken lab glass container (box) that are found in the labs for disposal. **Glass containers must never be put into the regular trash!**

• Plastic or glass containers that meet the recycling criteria should be placed into the appropriate recycling containers at the central recycling location for your building. **The broken glass box does not get recycled.**

**The following criteria must be met for containers to be recycled:**

**Glass (brown or clear):**

- triple rinsed according to above procedure

- dry

- uncapped

- unbroken

- no plastic coating

- no visible chemical residue or stains

- non Pyrex

- no glass tubing may be recycled

**Plastic:**

- triple rinsed according to procedure (see above)

- dry

- uncapped

- no visible chemical residue or stains

- listed as grades 1- 7 on bottom of container

- no plastic tubing may be recycled

**If there are any questions or concerns please contact EHS at 814-865-6391 or at ehslabsafety@psu.edu.**

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