



ECKERD COLLEGE

Safe Operating Procedure

(1/04)

EMPTY CONTAINER DISPOSAL

Containers include any size bottle (glass or plastic) or metal can that contained a chemical reagent, solvent, or solution. Containers range in size from very small glass and plastic bottles (pint or liter) to 18 L metal drums.

Empty containers should be disposed of by the stockroom supervisor in your building (e.g., Sheen Biology, Sheen Chemistry, and GMSL). The following criteria must be met before you turn the bottle in to the supervisor:

- The container must be empty (residual amounts of material left in the container are okay).
- The container must have the original label attached.
- The cap must be on the container.

Once the stockroom supervisor has the container, the supervisor will:

- Wash out any residual material with an appropriate solvent (water or acetone).
- Rinse the container 3X with water.
- Dispose of container.

The following general guidelines pertain to the proper disposal of empty containers.

- The disposal of most containers is not regulated once they are empty. Generally, a container is considered 'empty' when all products in the container have been removed using practices commonly employed to remove material from that type of container (i.e. pouring, pumping, venting, scooping, etc.) *Note: all Acid bottles must be triple rinsed before disposal.* A container that holds 3% or more of the original contents will be regulated the same as the contents for disposal purposes. Therefore, tag all containers that cannot be emptied to less than 3% for collection by EC Facilities.
- Some empty containers can be reused. A container should be reused only if it will be used to contain materials with similar properties to the chemicals it originally contained.
- Original labels on containers that are reused must be completely removed or defaced (unless it is reused for an identical product). The container needs to

be relabeled to indicate the new contents, and dated (if the chemical can form peroxides).

- Containers that are reused should be washed thoroughly prior to use.
- Empty glass containers cannot be placed in regular trash cans. If broken, the glass could severely cut someone. **See the Sharps (non-infectious handling and disposal SOP).**