



Environmental Safety Division

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Empty Chemical Container Disposal

Empty containers that previously held hazardous materials must be managed carefully to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and campus safety requirements.

Containers Eligible for Landfill/Regular Trash Disposal

An empty container may be disposed of with regular trash only if all the following conditions are met:

- The container is completely empty
- The container is free of all chemical residues
- The container did not hold an EPA P-listed chemical (acutely hazardous material by EPA definition)
- The container is defaced or clearly marked with the word “EMPTY”
- The container is bagged and taken to the nearest dumpster by laboratory staff

Containers with Residues

If a container is empty but still contains chemical residues:

- The container must be rinsed using an appropriate, compatible solvent to avoid adverse reactions (e.g., water or ethanol, if compatible with the chemical)
- All rinsate must be collected and managed as chemical waste
- The container may only be disposed of after it is residue-free, defaced or marked “EMPTY,” and bagged for disposal by lab staff

Containers That Held P-Listed (Acutely Hazardous) Chemicals

Containers that previously held an EPA P-listed chemical [EPA P-listed chemical](#):

- Must be submitted as hazardous waste for pickup, even if empty
- This requirement applies even if the container is dry and residue-free
- These containers may not be disposed of in the landfill

Additional Disposal Requirements

- Custodial staff may not dispose of empty hazardous material containers
- All eligible containers must be handled and disposed of by laboratory staff only

Questions or Assistance

If you are unsure how to properly manage or dispose of an empty container, contact UGA Environmental Safety at hazmat@uga.edu for guidance before disposal.