

Empty Container Management Guide

FIU's Environmental Health & Safety Department outlines methods for disposing of or reusing empty containers that carry hazardous materials. For more information, review the EH&S Environmental Compliance [Hazardous Waste Program Webpage](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ehs@fiu.edu.

To discard or reuse an empty container, all liquid or solid residue must be properly disposed of, and the container must not have ever held P- or U-listed chemicals. If a container has held a P- or U-listed chemical, the chemical and the container are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of through an EH&S Hazardous Waste Program. The United States Environmental Protection Agency maintains a list of P and U-listed chemicals that are classified as toxic waste; find the list [here](#).

For more information about hazardous waste requirements, visit:

<https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/environmental-compliance/index.html#3>.

Request a pick-up by visiting the website mentioned above or scanning the QR code >>>



Scan to request a
Hazardous Waste

Prior to commencing:

1. Under no circumstances is it acceptable to pour or dump chemicals, materials, solids, or liquids down the sink or into the sewer system. The Hazardous Waste Management Plan must be reviewed and abide by.
2. Ensure the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is utilized before handling or treating any material or containers.

Step 1: Removing the Contents

- **If Liquids:** chemicals, oils, dilutions, etc.
 - Remove the contents using safe practices, then proceed to Step 2: Defacing the Label.
- **Solids:** Solids include powders, resins, sludges, greases, and similar material
 - The solid material should be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste. Residual material can be scrapped off the container's interior and collected.
 - If you choose to rinse the container, the dilution is considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of accordingly.
 - DO NOT dump down the sink or into the sewer system.

Step 2: Defacing the Label

- Cover all the label information with a permanent marker; ensure no part of the label shows or is legible.
- Use the permanent marker and write the following on the container: "Uncontaminated Empty Container."

Step 3: Dispose of, Recycle, or Reuse

Step 3 offers two options: discard the container (either by disposing of or recycling it if possible) or reuse it for hazardous waste accumulation.

Discarding (Disposal or Recycle): glass, plastic, and metal containers can be disposed of in the regular trash or recycled.

Reuse for Hazardous Waste Storage: These containers can be reused to accumulate hazardous waste if they are made of plastic or glass, are compatible with the hazardous waste being accumulated, contain no residue, have been defaced (Step 2), and display a hazardous waste label.

To request a hazardous waste label, click here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/resources/index.html#3> or go to ehs.fiu.edu > select the "Resources" Tab, and scroll down to the "Sticker/Label/Tag Requests" section.