

## Empty Container Management Guide

FIU's Environmental Health & Safety Department outlines methods of disposal or reuse of empty containers that carry hazardous materials. Review the EH&S Environmental Compliance [Hazardous Waste Program Webpage](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [ehs@fiu.edu](mailto:ehs@fiu.edu).

Follow the proper disposal treatment steps below to dispose of, recycle, or reuse the empty containers if the contents are solids or liquids; this excludes P and U-listed chemicals. P or U-listed chemicals, per The United States Environmental Protection Agency, are considered toxic waste; a list can be found [here](#). A hazardous waste pick-up request must be made for both the contents and the container to dispose of a container holding P or U-listed waste. 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

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### 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. It is mandatory to review and abide by the [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#).
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.
  - If less than one inch of liquid remains, and the contents can evaporate over time, place the container inside a chemical fume hood, remove the lid, and allow the liquid to evaporate. Note: Ensure no other operations occur within the fume hood.
  - If the contents cannot evaporate, ensure to use it before proceeding.
- **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 has two options: disposal or recycling the container (if applicable) or reusing the container for hazardous waste storage or accumulation.

**Disposal or Recycle:** glass, plastic, and metal containers can be disposed of in the regular trash.

**Reuse for Hazardous Waste Storage:** these containers can be reused to accumulate hazardous waste if the containers are made of plastic or glass, there is no residue within the containers, Step 2 (defacing) has occurred, and a hazardous waste label is displayed on the container.

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