

Laboratory Safety Bulletin

Phone: 519-253-3000 Ext. 3523 • E-mail: ccc@uwindsor.ca • Web: www.uwindsor.ca/ccc
Location: Essex Hall / B-37 • Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (M-F)

Safe Disposal of Empty Chemical Containers

Empty chemical containers can contain residual amounts of chemicals. In an effort to ensure that this residue is handled appropriately and to be able to properly dispose of these containers follow these four (4) easy steps:

Step 1 - Prepare empty containers for disposal

If the contents were WATER SOLUBLE:

- Rinse the empty container with water, collect the initial concentrated rinse and discard to the proper liquid waste container.

If the contents were TOXIC:

- For containers holding chemicals that are highly toxic, pyrophoric, water reactive, and/or if the chemical residue cannot be rinsed out dispose of the entire container as hazardous chemical waste by bringing it to the Chemical Control Centre or authorized satellite waste storage location (i.e. GLIER, Biology, etc.).
- For containers holding non-reactive chemicals, **triple rinse** with water or other suitable solvent. Collect all rinses and discard into proper liquid waste container.
- Remove lid and place bottle in fume hood until all liquid has evaporated.

If the contents were a SOLVENT:

- Leave the container with the lid removed to air-dry in a chemical fume hood.

Step 2 - Deface labels

Deface label using a good marker. Ensure that all hazards warning information is not visible and "EMPTY" is clearly written on the container (see Figure 1).



Step 3 – Remove item from the inventory

Please make every effort to remove the item from the Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS) inventory:

To remove an item complete one (1) of the following steps:

1. Complete and submit a HMIS Inventory Update Request Form ([CCC-2010-10](#)) (available online at: uwindsor.ca/ccc) by:
 - a. Peeling off the yellow inventory control label (Figure 2) with six-digit chemical's serial number and attaching directly to form; or,
 - b. Record the serial number.

Completed forms must be returned to the Chemical Control Centre; by mail: Essex Hall Rm.B-37, or fax: 519.973.7013, or email (ccc@uwindsor.ca).

2. Access the HMIS directly (www.uwindsor.ca/hmis), locate item(s) by serial number, and mark item as disposed.



Step 4 – Dispose of container

Ensure container is properly prepared and dry (step 1), the label has been defaced or removed (step 2), item removed from inventory (step 3), and then:

- If glass container, place in the yellow broken glass container found in your lab, or
- If plastic container, place in regular trash.