



## Hazardous Waste Program Factsheet

### Empty Containers

(Containers that once stored hazardous materials)

#### What Is an Empty Container?

##### *Pourable Materials*

A container that held a pourable hazardous material or hazardous waste is empty when no material can be drained from it when tilted in any direction.

##### *Non-Pourable Materials*

A container that held a non-pourable hazardous material or hazardous waste such as viscous materials, sludges, or “caked” solids is empty when no material remains in the container that could be removed by scraping, chipping, or other physical methods. *A thin uniform film is considered acceptable.*

#### Acutely or Extremely Hazardous Materials

A container that held a material listed by the Federal or California EPA as an acutely or extremely hazardous waste must be disposed of through EH&S because the empty container is regulated as a hazardous waste. *Please see the list of extremely hazardous wastes listed on our website.*

#### Disposing of Empty Containers

##### *Containers Larger Than 5 Gallons*

Containers larger than 5 gallons **must never be disposed of in the common trash**. They must be re-used on-site or picked up by EH&S for recycling or hazardous waste disposal.

##### *Containers of 5 Gallons or Less*

Containers that are 5 gallons or smaller may be disposed of in the common trash if they meet the definition of an empty container given above, and has not contained any acutely or extremely hazardous wastes (see above). *Remove or deface any labels before discarding.*

#### Aerosol Containers (e.g., Spray Paint)

Aerosol containers may be disposed of in the common trash if they are completely empty of product and propellant and did not previously contain a material listed as an acutely or extremely hazardous waste (see above).