

Disposal of Glass Bottles

Glass bottles are treated as if they were already broken glass. The transportation of these materials can be rough enough to cause them break. The following procedure is required when disposing of glass bottles or other glass objects.

It must be free of Hazard

The hazard in the container must first be fully removed. If you cannot remove the hazard, dispose of the container as though it were full. The description for the purpose of disposal for chemical containers would then be the hazard with the word trace as the quantity. An example where this might happen is DiMethylFormamide. It is a syrup like material.

All residual material must be removed

Before you start packaging the glass, you must remove any free liquid to the best of your ability.

Chemical Bottles:

All chemical containers (plastic or glass) with residual must be triple rinsed. This rinse can go down the drain unless you think there is a good reason to collect it for hazardous waste disposal or the solvent you used is not water. Use some sense here in making this determination.

For ANY chemical that is an [EPA listed P-WASTE](#), you must collect all three rinses for hazardous waste disposal.

A point of clarification: IF you have a solvent like acetone that dries up and leaves an empty bottle, you only need to either blow air into the bottle or fill it once with water to remove any vapors.

Biological Bottles

If you have a container that held a biological, you must either autoclave it or use an appropriate material such as bleach to remove any infectious material. Make sure to remove any residual liquid as described above. In this case, you do not need to triple rinse the bottle after using bleach, just make sure you rinse it out and remove liquid so it does not smell strongly of bleach or leak liquid into the final disposal box.

Radiological

[Follow the Radiation safety policies.](#)

All original labeling must be removed

Before packaging your glass for disposal, you must remove or deface all hazard, name, and shipping labels. Put a piece of duct or similar tape over the label to obscure it.

The Cap must be removed

When you go to dispose of a container you, must remove the top and leave it off. There is no other way to full know the container is empty if found. For example, say the glass box goes to a landfill. If the box breaks apart and a bottle with a cap is found, they have no reference point for the container and must assume it was improperly disposed. This simple action can save a lot of confusion downstream from your lab.

Packaging for final disposal

Place the material into a bag. Do NOT use any colored bags meant for biohazard, radiation or anything else. Put the bag into a cardboard box and load the bag with your containers. Seal the bag and then the box with packing tape to make sure it cannot open in transit. Mark the box.

SHARPS-Broken Glass, Non-Infectious

Call for Removal

To have the box removed call Customer Service at 1-216-368-2580 and ask for a pickup. They will come and remove the box. If a box offered for disposal is not marked correctly as described above, is found to be wet, or weighs over 50 lbs., the Custodial group is instructed to not take the container until the issues are corrected. They will make you repack the box. When reusing a box that chemicals came in you must deface the labels on the box the same as you did for the containers. No one but you knows what is inside the container. Leaving extraneous labels makes confusion.

It is our hope that this process description helps to clarify the process of disposing of glass containers and gives you a little insight into how your actions affect those that must handle your material down stream of your lab.

If you still have questions, contact EHS at 1-216-368-2907