

Disposal of Metal Solvent Cans

5-gallon metal cans are commonly used to supply solvents to laboratories. The following procedure describes how these containers must be prepared prior to disposal

The disposal of metal solvent cans is much the same as any other chemical container with the exception that the final container does not need to be placed into a secondary container prior to being sent for disposal. As a result, it is vitally important that you:

Fully remove all labeling, and mark the can with the words "EMPTY"

Take the cap off the container,

Purge and clean the container to remove any residual hazard

See the process for preparing glass bottles for disposal for the details of these various operations.

Once you have a cleaned, purged (removed the vapor) and defaced container with no cap, you can simply off the container for disposal. Custodial will remove the container from your space. They will not take the container unless they all the above requirements are meet.

You must put the cans in BLUE recycling bags or they will not be picked up.

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.