

Reuse of Metal Solvent Cans and Glass bottles for Hazardous Waste disposal

5-gallon cans and glass bottles are wonderful waste collection containers. Many labs like to reuse these containers to collect solvent and other types of waste. If you are going to do this, the following must be taken into account

The material you put in the can must be compatible with the can.

If you put water based waste in a metal can it WILL rust.

If you put any chlorinated material in a metal can it will react with moisture from the air and form enough acid to corrode the can.

If you put an HF solution into glass, it will dissolve the bottle

You must deface the original label

You must deface all the labels before adding the new labels to the can. There must be absolutely no question as to the content of the material in the can. Again, while not pretty, a stripe or two of duct tape can obliterate the labels on the can quite well. Taping a piece of paper on the can usually does not make the trip and will come off.

You must assure that no pressure builds up in the container

If you have a waste that is evolving a gas, even a little gas. Over time, it will develop pressure and could rupture the container or cause a pressure explosion. Make sure this does not happen.

Be clean

As you fill your container if you spill a little, clean it up.

You must relabel the container

[Follow all the rules for containers in the EPA RCRA program](#)

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.