

EMPTY CHEMICAL BOTTLES RECYCLING PROGRAM

Empty Chemical Bottles Recycling includes all glass, plastic and metal bottles and containers that previously contained hazardous or non-hazardous chemicals (solid or liquid) and should be collected by Chemical Waste Services (CWS). Bottles include empty containers of buffer, culture media, saline and other miscellaneous products. The bottles should be **empty** without chemical residue and with the cap or lid on. Collect residue in chemical waste container and do not rinse empty bottle. Contact CWS at 301-496-4710 or email: depchemwaste@od.nih.gov for delivery and pickup of plastic totes that can be used for accumulation of empty bottles. All empty bottles and totes are to be stored inside the labs, not in the aisles or in hallways. Do not transfer empty chemical bottles or chemical wastes across corridors from one lab to another lab for storage or consolidation with other waste.

Empty containers that previously contained infectious or radioactive material will not be accepted and should be disposed according to the [NIH Waste Disposal Guide](#).

Do not place empty chemical bottles in commingled recycling bins, trash cans or in “Disposable Labware and Broken Glass” bins. Do not place any empty soda cans, juice bottles, or water bottles in these totes.

Collected empty chemical bottles are sorted at the building 21 hazardous waste facility and are later picked up by the sub-contractor and transported for recycling into bottles, marble and fiberglass.

There are 4 types of totes available for collection of empty chemical bottles with different sizes to occupy the limited storage space in labs.

The shape, dimension and capacity of the totes are:

The large rectangular tote is 25”LX20”WX14”H, weighs 12.3 pounds and has a 30 gallons capacity. It is made of high strength, fiberglass reinforced polyester resin that won’t bend, warp or deform under extreme conditions.



The medium rectangular tote is 19”LX16”WX15.5”H, weighs 3.95 pounds and has a 20 gallons capacity. It is made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) with 100% post-consumer recycled content.



The small rectangular tote is 19.5”LX15.5”WX13”H, weighs 4.2 pounds and has a 17 gallons capacity. It is molded from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) to resist rust, corrosion or warping.



The small upright tote is 15.25”LX11”WX19.9”H, weighs 2.93 pounds, has a 14 gallons capacity and best for labs with limited floor space. Fits underneath counter tops. It is made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) with 100% post-consumer recycled content.

