

## Industrial Solid Waste Fact Sheet

# Empty Chemical Containers- Category 1

## Definition

Any portable device in which a substance is stored, transported, treated, disposed of, or otherwise managed. Generally, containers of materials that would be considered non-hazardous waste when discarded can be disposed of through this program.

## Special Disposal Conditions

Reusing, recycling or salvaging empty containers is the preferred method of disposal. The material will be directed to the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) or the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill depending on the container size and only after certification that the waste is non-hazardous.

## Generator Requirements

- Prior to delivery, generators must trip-rinse any containers that previously held hazardous wastes or pesticides with a suitable cleansing agent and complete the “Certificate of Triple Rinsing” form
- The generator must cut holes in the top, bottom and sides to certify that the containers are free of liquids.
- Hazard or warning labels must be removed or blacked out.
- A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation must be on file
- Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Forms and Certification of Non-Hazardous Status form must accompany each load for disposal.

## Procedures

### Typical Delivery types

- empty containers of metal or plastic composition
- occasionally contained in paper or plastic bags

### Background

A container is defined as any portable device in which a substance is stored, transported, treated, disposed of, or otherwise managed (Title 40 CFR Part 260.10). The waste generator must evaluate the material that was or, potentially, still remains in the container. Containers of materials that would be considered non-hazardous waste when discarded may, in most cases, be managed as industrial solid waste. Generators of containers of materials that would be considered hazardous waste when discarded must consider the amount and type of residue remaining in the container in order to determine if the container is regulated as hazardous waste. Containers of materials that would be considered hazardous waste when discarded

that do not meet the definition of “empty” (as defined by 40 CFR 261.7) must be managed as hazardous waste.

However, containers of materials that would be considered hazardous waste when discarded that meet the definition of “empty” (as defined by 40 CFR 261.7) may be disposed of as non-hazardous industrial solid waste. Containers that previously held a material that when discarded would be classified as acute hazardous waste are considered empty only after the containers have been triple-rinsed (using a solvent that is capable of removing all remaining residue) or the inner liners have been removed. The rinsate generated from the triple-rinsing must be used as a product or managed as acute hazardous waste. Containers that previously held acute hazardous waste that are NOT triple-rinsed must be managed as acute hazardous waste.

### **Disposal**

Reusing, recycling, or salvaging empty containers is the preferred management method. If the containers cannot be reused, recycled, or salvaged, the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) is the preferred management facility. Containers larger than 2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet are unable to be processed at the OWEF but may, in most cases, be disposed at the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) sponsors an [Empty Pesticide Container Collection and Recycling Program](#); to learn more about the program and any restrictions that may apply, please contact the MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management division at 651-201-6121.

### **Testing Requirements**

In most cases, analytical testing is not required. Under certain circumstance, additional testing may be required to ensure the waste material is not a regulated hazardous waste and is acceptable for disposal at an Olmsted County solid waste management facility. If available, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) of the container’s previous contents may be required.

### **Documentation**

A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department. At the time of delivery, the hauler must present a current, approved Non-Hazardous Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Form, a completed, signed Empty Chemical Container Certification of Non-Hazardous Waste Status Form, and, if applicable, a completed, signed Certification of Triple Rinsing Form.

### **Special Generator Requirements**

Prior to delivery, containers that previously held hazardous waste, acute hazardous waste, or pesticides must be triple-rinsed with a suitable cleansing agent. Containers must not contain any free liquids; must be rendered useless by cutting holes in the top, bottom, and two rows of three holes each on the sides; must have the lids or caps removed; and must have any hazard or warning labels removed or blocked out once the containers have been readied for disposal. Containers larger than five gallons must be trisected. Empty compressed-gas

containers must be vented by puncturing, or other suitable means, to render them incapable of pressurization upon heating. If a valve is present, it is preferable to remove or open it. Containers that previously held compressed-gas are considered empty when the pressure inside the container approaches atmospheric pressure.