Disposal of DEA Controlled Substances

Expired DEA controlled substances, or containers of controlled substances that are no longer needed, must be disposed of through Penn State’s reverse distributor process. Contact EHS for proper documentation to initiate this process. EHS can be contacted by email at psuehs@psu.edu or by phone at 814-865-6391.

Disposal of Empty DEA Controlled Substance Containers

This procedure outlines the appropriate means to properly dispose of DEA controlled substance containers once the contents become unrecoverable. These controlled substance containers will be considered empty. Empty containers that held DEA controlled substances shall not be placed in the regular trash nor disposed of as chemical waste. Follow the procedure below to properly dispose of these containers at University Park.

1. Containers must have no recoverable amount of substance left in the container. Do **NOT** follow the “triple rinse procedure” for these containers.
2. Deface all labels with black permanent marker so that wording and symbols are no longer legible.
3. Place container(s) into a biohazard bag. Tie or securely close the bag.
4. Place the bag, without autoclaving, into a white regulated medical waste barrel that is located in the autoclave room.
5. Document in the appropriate record keeping book the date and time you placed the empty container into the barrel for disposal.