

Glass Recycling

Laboratories generate significant amounts of glass waste, especially from stock bottles. To mitigate environmental impact and reduce landfill contributions, Columbia has established procedures for recycling eligible glass laboratory waste.

How can laboratories reduce glass waste?

Order only necessary chemical stock to avoid unnecessary waste generation. Implement a stock management system – first in/first out will ensure that stock will not sit in storage until it expires. Organize your stock to help maintain your management system.

Fun FAQ!

Try implementing an Inventory system, like ChemTracker, to keep up with your current inventory.

Can glass stock bottles be reused to collect chemical waste?

Yes, emptied stock bottles that meet the recycling criteria can be reused. Follow steps 1-4 before affixing an EH&S orange hazardous waste label to the bottle. DO NOT collect chemicals that are incompatible with the original contents of the stock bottle and use a funnel for safe chemical transfer.

Any special considerations or exclusions?

Broken glassware should always be disposed of in white fiber boxes. Recycled glassware must only have residual chemical contamination. Bottles with residue from acutely toxic, pyrophoric, or water-reactive chemicals must be managed and disposed of as hazardous waste via a chemical waste pickup request. A complete list of acutely toxic chemicals can be found referenced on EPA's website under regulations 40 CFR section 261.33.

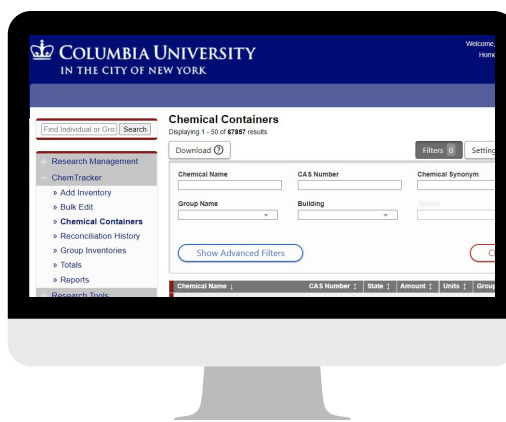


Fiber box for broken Glasware

What are the steps to recycle glass stock bottles?

1. Transfer any remaining chemicals into a hazardous waste container.
2. Once emptied, fill the bottle with 1L of tap water; dispose the rinsate down the drain.
3. Allow the rinsed bottle to dry, using a fume hood if available.
4. Completely deface the label to indicate it no longer poses hazard risks.
5. Place the emptied bottle in designated glass recycling bins.

By following these guidelines, laboratories can actively contribute to glass recycling efforts, promoting sustainability and responsible waste management.



ChemTracker Webpage



A properly defaced and reused glass Bottle

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at Labsafety@columbia.edu or give us a call

CUIMC: (212) 305 - 6780

Manhattanville/Morningside: (212) 854 - 8749

QR Code: Laboratory Glassware Collection and Disposal.

Note: this policy applies exclusively to the Morningside and LDEO campuses

