Empty Container Decision Tree

Chemical waste materials must be handled as hazardous unless they are on the Non-Hazardous Waste List. Used hazardous materials containers are an exception, however. They have their own resource for hazard determinations, which is the Empty Container Decision Tree.

To properly use the Empty Container Decision Tree, the container must be truly empty. Not a drop of liquid, nor any solid residue that could be scraped out, may be present.

EMPTY CONTAINER DECISION TREE

1. Did the container previously hold a hazardous material?
   - No
   - Yes

2. Do you intend to reuse the container in the future to hold compatible waste?
   - No
   - Yes

3. Is the volume of the container 5 gallons or less?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Did the container hold an acutely or extremely hazardous material?
   - No
   - Yes

5. In your opinion, would tracking the container pose a hazard?
   - No
   - Yes

6. Will rinsing the container remove hazard?
   - No
   - Yes

7. Will rinsing the container and manage the rinse as a hazardous waste?
   - No
   - Yes

8. Cross out the original label.

9. Empty container means:
   - Liquids: Not one drop of material can be removed by tilting or inverting the container.
   - Solids and Semi-Solids: Material cannot be feasibly removed by scraping or chipping.
   - Aerosols: Contents and propellant are used to the maximum extent feasible under normal use.