Why should I store my active pharmaceutical intermediate (API), bulk drug products and other critical reagents in a polycarbonate container versus a glass container?

While glass has been traditionally used to store materials for drug and vaccine production, presterilized, single-use containers in crystal-clear polycarbonate (PC) are recognized as a much safer alternative. PC containers maintain the visibility and integrity of the contents like glass containers do, but PC enables cold storage down to –130°C, with a fracture resistance that glass cannot offer.
Why are PC containers good for storing critical materials?

**Safer handling**
If glass breaks, the resulting shards are dangerous. If a PC container breaks, the bottles may crack, but there is less danger to the handler, since the container will not shatter into sharp shards.

**Single-use advantages**
There is no need to perform washing validations, testing of washed products, or other types of processing that are associated with glass and that introduce more costs. Furthermore, a slight break in glass could compromise the contents with fragments of glass, even without leaking. A slight break in a PC container may result in visual defects, but the contents can still be transferred to another container without the loss or contamination of valuable material.

**Ergonomic advantages**
Plastics such as PC are much lighter than glass, making routine handling less likely to cause injury. Larger containers with molded-in handles or handles attached at the neck aid in gripping, pouring, and transport as well.

**Summary**
Nalgene Biotainer bottles and carboys are a safer alternative to glass that can also offer higher cost savings when storing critical drug reagents, APIs, and bulk products.

Find out more at [thermofisher.com/pcbiotainer](http://thermofisher.com/pcbiotainer)