



Aerosol Container Management

This document covers basic safety information for aerosol management.

When are aerosol cans hazardous waste?

Aerosol cans may be hazardous wastes when they are *non-empty* and will no longer be used. Aerosol cans are *not* hazardous wastes when they have been emptied of contents. Non-empty Aerosol cans are commonly discarded for a number of reasons, such as: the spray mechanism is damaged or clogged and no longer works, the propellant has been exhausted, or the owner decides that he or she no longer wants or needs the product. Completely empty or 'spent' aerosol cans can be recycled as scrap metal.

Aerosol Cans: Most aerosol cans use hydrocarbons, such as propane, butane, or LPG gas as the propellant. Hence, most waste aerosol cans that are not empty are ignitable hazardous waste.



Labeling & Storage: Store in approved containers, in a well-ventilated area, away from heat/flames. Aerosol waste containers (not individual cans) shall have a hazardous waste label affixed to them indicating the associated physical/health hazards, the accumulation start date and the words "Waste Aerosol Cans". Typically, aerosol cans are marked flammable and irritant. Cover containers at the end of each workday that are used to accumulate aerosol cans for shipping. The University has 1 year to ship off property. Please contact SH&S if the 1 year time limit is near.

First Aid:

Skin or Eye Contact	Wash with soap and water. Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. If in eyes, rinse with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention.
Inhalation	Move person into fresh air. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention.