

EHS-22 – AEROSOL CAN DISPOSAL

WHAT IS AN AEROSOL CONTAINER?

An aerosol container is a dispenser that holds a substance under pressure and that can release the substance, usually by means of a propellant gas, in a number of forms such as wet sprays, fine sprays, powder sprays, foams, or pastes. Common propellants include propane, butane, and isobutene.

Aerosol cans must not be disposed of in the regular trash.

WHY IS SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED?

Some aerosol products (e.g., paints, solvents, pesticides) are hazardous due to:

- The presence of hazardous ingredients.
- The presence of highly flammable propellants such as propane and butane.
- The container's pressure. If punctured, the contents may be released so forcefully that injuries can result. Also, pressurized containers delivered to a landfill present safety concerns during compacting.
- Aerosol cans are hazardous waste and the collection areas are considered to be "Satellite Accumulation Areas". The area must have signage that indicates this (see example to the right).

DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you are an infrequent generator of aerosol cans, you may:

- Utilize an existing aerosol collection container with permission of the owner.
 - Ask the Environmental Services Specialist in your building to take an aerosol can. Do not leave cans by the supply room door.
2. If you are a frequent generator of aerosol cans, contact the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Dept. at X4804 for help in establishing a Satellite Accumulation Area to collect cans for your area. Specific requirements apply.



3. Training is required before you start collecting cans. Contact the EHS Dept. at X4804.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact the EHS Dept. at X4804.

REFERENCES

- Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management (ADEM), *Disposal of Aerosol Containers*
- ADEM Administrative Code Division 14, *Hazardous Waste*