

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 04-023	
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AEROSOL CONTAINER DISPOSAL

Aerosols are utilized in a variety of applications throughout the University. Aerosol containers (also known as “spray cans”) hold materials ranging from food-based additives to solvent-based cleaners and paint. Aerosol containers hold both the product and a pressurized propellant, and both may present safety or environmental hazards if not properly managed. Aerosol containers must be disposed in accordance with federal and state regulations using the following guidelines.

1. Applicability

- 1.1. These disposal guidelines apply to all aerosol containers, regardless of the content (e.g. cooking sprays, cleaners, spray paint), that contain unwanted materials or contain residual material that can no longer be expelled from the container.
- 1.2. Aerosol containers that have been completely emptied of contents may be disposed in the regular trash.

2. Disposal

- 2.1. Aerosol containers which meet the criteria listed in Section 1.1 should be disposed through the University’s chemical waste program.
- 2.2. A completed orange WASTE CHEMICALS label should be affixed to each aerosol container. Be sure to identify the contents of each container.
- 2.3. Process waste aerosol containers through the Chemical Waste Program.

If you have any questions about the proper handling and disposal of aerosol containers, please contact EH&S at 412-624-9505.