

Machine Shop Checklist #11: Spent Aerosol Spray Cans



Depending on how they're managed, spent aerosol spray cans may be dangerous waste.

You have two disposal options

1. Not dangerous waste

- Use your aerosol products until they are empty. "Empty" for an aerosol spray means they have less than 1 inch of fluid and no propellant left to discharge.
- Empty cans can be put in the trash.
- Keep extra nozzles as a replacement for lost or plugged nozzles.

2. Dangerous waste

- If propellant remains in the can, or if more than 1 inch of dangerous waste liquid is left in the can, manage it as dangerous waste.
- Collect aerosol cans in an electrostatically grounded and closed container (such as a 55-gallon drum).
- Label the container as "Dangerous Waste" and "Flammable." The letters must be at least one-half inch high or readable from a distance of 25 feet. Tip: You can print free labels at ecology.wa.gov/PrintDWLabels.
- Aerosol dangerous waste containers should be picked up by a vendor (ask your Ecology contact for a vendor list).

Important: Flammable aerosol propellants can cause explosions and fires in garbage trucks.

Recommendation

If possible, avoid aerosol products that contain halogenated organic compounds, because they can cause metalworking fluid to become dangerous waste. These compounds typically have chemical names beginning with or containing **chlori**, **chloro**, **fluori**, or **fluoro**.

Contact Information

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Accessibility

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