

MANAGEMENT OF EMPTY AEROSOL CANS

To empty these cans, it is important to open the safety valve or to puncture the can. Aerosol cans containing compressed gases or liquids, especially when these substances are flammable, toxic, or corrosive, should only be punctured under strictly controlled conditions. Emptying aerosol cans at facilities authorized under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* allows for the collection and destruction of active ingredients prior to the recycling or disposal of the cans.

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Legal Framework and Waste Classification

The *Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers (Guide)* identifies non-empty aerosol cans as hazardous waste depending on the characteristics and percentage by mass of the compressed gases in the aerosol can (*Guide*, items 45 through 59, Table 4a). Hazardous aerosol cans generally contain inert gases as propellants and corrosive, toxic, or flammable liquids or gases as active ingredients.

Certain conditions under the *Waste Control Regulation* Schedule 2 keep aerosol cans from being hazardous, specifically:

- household hazardous waste in the possession of the householder or while unsegregated in a municipal waste management system;
- agricultural waste resulting from farming; or
- small quantities of hazardous waste (other than highly hazardous wastes described in Table 4b of the *Guide*) that are produced in an amount less than 5 kilograms per month if a solid or 5 litres per month if a liquid and the total quantity accumulated does not exceed 5 kilograms or 5 litres at any one time.

Recyclable/Waste Management Options

Exempt aerosol cans need not be segregated from other regular and may be disposed of at approved Class I or Class II landfills. Non-empty aerosols cans, however, are classified as hazardous and should not be disposed of in landfills.

The preferred management of non-empty aerosol cans is to separate them from other municipal solid waste and direct them to annual toxic round-ups or eco-centres for recycling. Information on toxic round-ups can be obtained from the local municipality or Alberta Environment at (780) 422-8466.

A list of Alberta facilities approved to manage hazardous wastes and/or recyclables is available at www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/indhaz/index.html.

Additional information on recycling/management options may be explored by contacting the Environmental Services Association of Alberta at 1-800-661-9278 or (780) 439-6363 or by visiting their web site at www.esaa.org.

Transportation Requirements

When shipping non-empty aerosol cans as waste or a recyclable, a manifest or recycle docket, respectively, is required. Movement of hazardous recyclables within the province requires a recycle docket, only when the load exceeds 205 kg. Application forms for a Personal Identification Number (generator number) or recycle dockets may be downloaded from Alberta Environment's waste web site www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/indhaz/Manifest.html. Copies of manifests or recycle dockets are available by contacting Alberta Environment at (780) 427-0666 or on-line. Manifest requirements are outlined in the *Waste Control Regulation*.

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