



AEROSOL CANS

are metal can that are used to dispense a product in the form of a mist, spray, or foam. Common products used at the University of Oregon include WD-40, spray paints, and certain chemicals. Some aerosol cans use a propellant, which may be flammable and considered universal waste. Although aerosol cans are easily accessible and commonly used, they are a chemical product with specific handling, storage, and disposal requirements. Be sure to use them safely by following the guidelines below.

BEFORE USE

1. Ensure that a safety data sheet has been submitted to Environmental Health and Safety for the product.
2. Consult with EHS if you have questions or concerns about using the product.
3. Store the aerosol can in accordance with the requirements on the safety data sheet.
4. When possible, use a low-VOC spray paint.
5. Prior to use, inspect the can to make sure that there is no damage.

DURING USE

- Always use in a well-ventilated area, like a spray booth or outside. Never use an aerosol can in a stairwell!
- When using an aerosol can, wear appropriate PPE. Depending on the product, it may be required to wear safety glasses or face shield, and gloves.
- Do not use aerosol cans around heat sources!

AFTER USE

- Do not dispose of empty aerosol cans in the trash! Dispose of them in an appropriate bin or contact Environmental Health and Safety for pick up.
- Even if you believe the can is empty, do not puncture/pierce the can.

WHAT TO KNOW!

- If you have questions about how to safely store, use, and dispose of aerosol cans, then contact your supervisor or Environmental Health and Safety!
- Report injuries to your supervisor immediately!
- In an emergency, call **911** and **UOPD** (541-346-2919) for immediate assistance.
- Review the [General Disposal Guide](#) for more information on waste disposal!



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