



Stony Brook University
Environmental Health & Safety

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE TIP

Aerosol Containers



TODAY'S THE DAY TO PROPERLY THROW AWAY YOUR SPRAY!!!

Many hazardous materials, such as spray paints, degreasers, or lubricants may be packaged in aerosol containers. This type of packaging can be dangerous because aerosol containers may explode under heat or pressure, spreading the hazardous contents and metal throughout the area.

Aerosol Disposal Techniques

1. Use non-aerosol products, such as pump sprays whenever possible.
2. Always try to use up the product or give it to someone else who can use it.
3. Aerosol Containers having any amount of residual fluid must be collected and disposed of as a hazardous waste. Aerosol packaging contain propellants that are combustible and can be considered hazardous under the EPA regulations.
4. Completely discharged aerosol cans are not considered hazardous waste and therefore, may be disposed as routine solid waste (regular trash).
5. An aerosol container is considered empty, when the outside pressure of the can equals the inside pressure of the can. (i.e. keep pushing on the button and until you no longer here or see the product exiting the can).
6. Store all flammable aerosol products appropriately. Store in flammable storage cabinets where available or necessary.
7. For disposal, if you can not fully empty the aerosol container or if the materials are hazardous, label it with a hazardous waste label and dispose of it with other hazardous waste. (i.e. bring it to the regular hazwaste pickup for your building or contact the EHS department @ 2-6410 for pick-up).
8. Contact EH&S with any questions.

Awareness promotes environmental stewardship... Involvement assures compliance.