

October 9, 2008

Disposal Information

This letter should answer some of the questions about the disposal of cans and canisters. The following information is from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

RCRA Regulation of Aerosol Cans

Steel aerosol cans (and canisters) that do not contain a significant amount of liquid (e.g., can has been punctured and drained) meet the definition of scrap metal; aerosol cans that are recycled as scrap metal are exempt, and generator need not make a hazardous waste determination. (RCRA 261 Subpart A; 261 Subpart C; 262 Subpart A)

Puncturing, crushing, shredding of non-empty aerosol cans is not treatment since materials inside, not the cans themselves are hazardous; Residues inside are regulated if listed or characteristic. (RCRA 260 Subpart B; 261 Subpart A)

The canisters or cans should be **totally devoid of pressure and as empty of adhesive as possible**. With the valve open, the small canister can be punctured easily, either with a punch or chisel. Large canisters must have the valve removed with a wrench. The brass valve is also recycleable. Scrap yards will not take cylinders that are not open to the air. What residue remains in the canister is not a concern due to the fact that it is not hazardous when dried out. It consists of rubber and resin. Do not puncture a can or canister that has any pressure. This could cause serious injury. Empty cans can be mixed with regular solid waste. Small canisters can be sent to the landfill also, but it has been our experience that the landfill operators would rather have the canisters recycled as scrap steel. We agree with this.

This should alleviate concerns about what to do with empty cans and canisters. Recycling is always the best way to go.

NOTE: We realize that there is the chance of injury while using and disposing of aerosol canisters. Westech assumes no responsibility for misuse of this information or any accidents that could occur from these types of operations.

Respectfully,

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