



UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

2. SAFE STORAGE AND HANDLING OF AEROSOL CANS

(For assistance, please contact [Environmental Health & Safety](#))

Aerosol cans may also be hazardous wastes depending on their contents. Aerosol cans in storage also present a hazard to occupants and emergency responders in case of fire. The [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#) regulates disposal of aerosol cans as [Universal Waste](#).

Disposal

- ✓ Aerosol cans sometimes need to be discarded before they are completely empty. This occurs for a variety of reasons, including when the spray mechanism no longer operates as designed, the propellant is spent, or the product is no longer used. In these cases, the aerosol can should be collected and turned over to EH&S for disposal.
- ✓ **Do not discard aerosol cans in the garbage** if they still contain any product.
- ✓ Completely empty aerosol cans may be placed in the dumpster for recycle.
- ✓ This includes everything that comes in an aerosol can, (e.g., paints, hairspray, deodorizer, contact cleaner, “clean air”, etc.)
- ✓ **All** unwanted aerosol cans must be properly [disposed](#) via [EH&S](#) THEY MUST NOT BE THROWN INTO THE GARBAGE.
- ✓ Whenever possible, **avoid using products that come in an aerosol can**. When you can avoid the use of aerosol cans, you can avoid regulatory requirements.

Following these guidelines will ensure compliance with regulations.

¹ UNWANTED = NO LONGER NEEDED OR EMPTY OR EXCESS OR OFF SPECIFICATION OR NO LONGER PRESSURIZED, ETC.

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on September 22, 2021