

# PIG Aerosol Can Recycler

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are empty aerosol cans hazardous waste?

The propellant used in aerosol cans causes cans to react (explode) if subjected to high heat or pressure. Because of this, it meets EPA's definition of "reactivity" [40 CFR 261.23] making aerosol cans a characteristic hazardous waste. Some liquids commonly supplied in aerosol cans may also be listed or characteristic hazards.

### How long does it take to puncture a can?

It takes about 20 seconds to depressurize and drain an aerosol can.

### How long do the filters last?

The lifespan of the carbon cartridge is about 3 months. The lifespan on the coalescing filter is around 6 months.

### How do I need to handle the liquid that accumulates in the collection drum?

A hazard determination should be made based on the hazards of the liquids in the aerosol cans that were punctured. If those liquids are hazardous, they should be recycled or handled as hazardous waste.

### What kind of container do I need to connect the recycling unit to?

The Aerosol Can Recycler should be used on a steel drum with at least a 30-gallon capacity to allow for proper displacement of compressed gas released during puncturing. The most common size used is a 55-gallon drum because it places the recycling unit at a workable height for most employees. Plastic drums should not be used with the recycling unit.

### How much does an empty aerosol can weigh?

Four standard-sized, punctured aerosol cans weigh about 1 pound.

### Can I puncture all of my aerosol cans with the same unit?

Many facilities can combine their aerosol can wastes. However, it is best to check the SDS for each product that will be punctured to ensure that the liquids in the cans are compatible. For example, corrosive liquids should not be combined with pesticides.

### How long does it take to fill a drum with liquids from aerosol cans?

A 55-gallon drum will accommodate the liquid from up to 4,200 drained cans.



### Will I need a hazwaste treatment permit to use this system?

Under OSWER Directive 9432.01(80), puncturing cans does not constitute treatment at the federal level. (Some state regulations supersede this requirement.)

### How can I minimize the chance of fugitive emissions?

The filtering media captures a majority of the emissions from the recycling unit. However, some vapors may be emitted through the puncturing unit. To minimize this potential, just leave a punctured can in the chamber to seal off this opening.

### Does puncturing cans pressurize the collection drum?

No. The filter automatically vents at 3 psi to prevent unsafe pressure from accumulating in the drum.

### Are the filters hazardous after use?

No. The spent filters contain less than 3% product, meeting the RCRA definition of "empty" for non-regulated disposal.

### Will I need an air permit to use the aerosol can recycling system?

Air permits are only needed if you are exhausting 15 or more pounds of propellant per day. As a reference, in a full aerosol can, propellants account for about 15% of the total weight of the can.

### Does the unit need to be grounded?

Because many propellants and liquids in aerosol cans are flammable, the anti-static wire helps to promote safe use of the product by draining unsafe static charges that may accumulate, meeting OSHA's requirement for containers to be grounded and bonded during transfers of flammable liquids.



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