



PENETRANT PROFESSOR APPROVED

GENERAL GUIDE *to* **Aerosol Can** *Disposal*

Aerosol packages consist of the usable product and a propellant in a sealed delivery container. Current regulations outlaw the use of fluorocarbon propellants because they are Ozone Layer Depleting Substances (**OLDS**). The choices left for pressurizing aerosols are compressed gasses such as CO₂, hydrocarbons, or exotic non-OLDS blends. Compressed gasses are generally nonflammable while hydrocarbons are very flammable. The dilemma is that compressed gasses do not produce uniformity in spray pattern from start to finish and the available nonflammable blends are expensive and unproven, long term, environmentally. Over 95% of all aerosols are packaged with some form of hydrocarbon.

The aerosol package is a self contained spray system. It is under pressure. Excessive heat should be avoided to prevent increased can pressure due to propellant expansion, which could cause container failure or bursting. **Store Aerosols Below 120°F (48°C).**

The propellant and sometimes the product are flammable, so flames, sparks, and ignition sources should be avoided. Adequate ventilation should be provided in confined work areas, so that vapors do not concentrate and increase the fire hazard and danger of inhalation.

Met-L-Chek® packages in 12 oz. (300ml) and 16 oz. (400ml) aerosol cans. This is the volume measure of the can capacity and not the product fill. Aerosol fills are by net weight. Product and gas densities vary so the same volume fill of different products will have different net weight fills. Most of the **12 oz.(volume)** Met-L-Chek® aerosols are packaged with a net weight of **230 grams** or **8 oz. net weight**; **16 oz.(volume)** can fills are generally **310 grams** or **10.9 oz. net weight**. This will vary with some products because of product and gas density.

Full aerosol cans should not be placed in the general waste. The can may be emptied by spraying the contents into a container to allow use of the product or its proper disposal. The empty container is often disposable in the waste but local ordinances must be checked first for compliance. The container may be punctured with a nail or other sharp tool to allow any remaining gas out of the can. Care must be taken in doing this to avoid any of the contents spraying out into the operators eyes. Safety glasses or a face shield must be worn. Special can puncturing devices are available and are recommended. The cup of the valve may be pierced or the container inverted and the bottom punctured. The empty aerosol is generally acceptable for waste disposal in this condition provided the contents are out and no hazardous residues remain. Most penetrant, developer and remover residues are not considered to be hazardous wastes in limited quantities as found in emptied aerosol containers. Again local regulations should be verified before disposing of aerosols.

These are general guide lines only. Local governmental regulations on waste disposal take precedent. This information is provided to assist users where there are no regulations for safety and disposal.

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