



# County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION  
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## ATTENTION: GENERATORS OF EMPTY OR CONTAMINATED CONTAINERS

On May 29, 1992, the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) adopted Section 66261.7 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22 which addresses contaminated containers. These regulations encourage recycling and other options for disposal of "**empty**" or "**contaminated**" containers.

If a container is not empty as defined by California regulation, and is to be disposed of, the contaminated container shall be managed as hazardous waste, labeled with a completed hazardous waste label, and disposed of in accordance with State hazardous waste regulations.

[Reference 22 CCR §66261.7(r)]

### WHAT IS AN "EMPTY" CONTAINER?

- 1) If the container stored a hazardous liquid, then it must be completely drained, so that no liquid can pour from the container when it is tilted or held upside down.
- 2) If the container stored a solid or non-pourable hazardous material (powders, sludges, grease, thick resins, etc.) then it must be completely scraped out with no remaining buildup inside the container.
- 3) Aerosol containers are "empty" if the contents and pressure are completely dispensed and the spray mechanism is in place and not defective and it is not a reactive waste (i.e., where the container may explode).
- 4) Compressed gas cylinders are "empty" if the inside pressure approaches atmospheric pressure.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Contaminated containers which held a listed **extremely hazardous material** or an **acutely hazardous waste** must be managed as **hazardous waste** or you must submit notification to treat the containers to the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) to triple rinse and treat the container. Notification forms must be submitted to the HMD before triple rinsing/cleaning and the forms are at: [http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/deh/hazmat/hmd\\_forms.html#hazardouswasteforms](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/deh/hazmat/hmd_forms.html#hazardouswasteforms)

Special provisions for specific containers such as household containers, compressed gas cylinders, aerosol containers, containers made of absorptive materials, pesticide containers from commercial farms and bulk containers is found on the **DTSC Fact Sheet, February 2009 Managing Empty Containers:** <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/upload/Managing-Empty-Containers.pdf>

**On the reverse side of this bulletin is a chart describing the disposal or recycling options for empty containers**

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# WHAT ARE THE "EMPTY" CONTAINER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS?

(This chart is applicable to empty containers, as defined by California regulation §66261.7, that previously held a hazardous material or waste that was *not acutely or extremely hazardous*.)

## CONTAINER TYPE/SIZE

DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR <u>EMPTY</u> CONTAINERS	Empty Container of 5 Gallons or Less in Size	Empty Container of Greater than 5 Gallons in Size	Empty Aerosols Cans	Absorptive Containers (wood, paper, bags, etc.) which has not Absorbed Any Hazardous Material	Empty Compressed Gas Cylinders (At Atmospheric Pressure)
To the original SUPPLIER for refilling	OK	OK	—	OK	OK
To a DRUM RECONDITIONER	OK	OK	—	—	—
To a SCRAP METAL/PLASTIC or other legitimate authorized recycling facility	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK Remove valves
* To a SOLID WASTE facility (top of container must be removed and appointment may be needed for bulk amounts)	OK	NO  No intact containers greater than 5 gallons will be accepted at local landfills	OK	OK	OK  Remove valves
To a HAZARDOUS WASTE disposal facility (TSDF)	OK  Required if container is not "empty"	OK  Required if container is not "empty"	OK  Required if any residual material or propellant remains inside**	OK  Required if hazardous material absorbed or left on container	OK  Required if pressure or liquid remains inside

\* **Recycling options should be considered first. Use a solid waste facility (landfill) only as a last resort.**

Transportation and packaging of the empty containers must be in accordance with applicable State of California, Department of Transportation (DOT) and DTSC regulations.

\*\* **DTSC 2005, Management of Aerosol Cans Fact Sheet:**

[http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/upload/HWM\\_FS\\_SB1158.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/upload/HWM_FS_SB1158.pdf)

The following additional requirements must be met for "empty" containers **greater than 5 gallons in capacity**:

- 1) The container shall be marked with the date it was emptied.
- 2) The container shall be managed within one year of being emptied.
- 3) The generator shall provide the name, street address, mailing address and telephone number of the facility where the "empty" container has been shipped. This information shall be maintained on-site for 3 years by the generator.

Please contact the Hazardous Materials Division, Duty Specialist at (858) 505-6880, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., if you have any further questions.