

EACH YEAR THE UK USES AROUND 600 MILLION AEROSOLS

You Could be Recycling Your Aerosols



BAMA



Each year, the UK uses around **600 million** aerosols. On average that's 10 cans per person, or 27 cans per household.

Aerosols account for **4%** of the metals packaging stream. We estimate that there are about **25,000 tonnes** of tinned steel and **4,500 tonnes** of high grade aluminium available from recycling aerosols in the UK.

Aerosols are **recyclable** – the numbers being recycled in the UK are very low, but in other countries such as Germany, France and the US, aerosols are collected along with other metal packaging to help them reach their targets.

Markets exist for the materials recovered, which can add revenue to your recycling schemes (as valuable commodities in their own right) and avoid landfill costs and taxes:



Steel Aerosols are accepted by many secondary metals dealers including the Save-A-Can scheme.

Detinning recovers tin and high grade steel. Steel scrap is essential in new steel production



Aluminium Aerosols are now accepted by Alcan and many secondary metals dealers.

Aerosols are made from 99.7% pure aluminium.

So how can you include aerosols in your recycling scheme?

The first thing to remember is that you shouldn't create a special collection scheme. The best and safest way to recycle aerosols is to leave them mixed in with other metal waste – do not segregate or concentrate them.

Educate consumers to put only EMPTY used aerosols in can banks and kerbside collections. Consumers must not pierce or squash the cans.

Ensure that you are taking the usual health and safety precautions for a well run Material Reclamation Facility especially ruling out sources of ignition.

More advice on safely recycling aerosols is given on the reverse of this leaflet.

For more detailed independent health and safety reports, and to obtain free can bank labels contact the British Aerosol Manufacturers'

Association on:

Tel: 020 7828 5111

Fax: 020 7834 8436

E-mail: enquiries@bama.co.uk

You can speak to Alcan Aluminum Can Recycling

on 01925 784136

or Save-A-Can on 01495 334521.

No special steps are needed to recycle aerosols from the domestic waste stream but some sensible precautions should be followed:

- Leave aerosols mixed in with other metal waste – do not segregate and concentrate them.
- Advise consumers to put only empty used aerosols in can banks or kerbside collections.
- Many, many local authorities world-wide are successfully including aerosols in their recycling schemes. In a MRF, waste containing aerosols can be baled, flattened or shredded. As some of the residues may be flammable, it is wise to:
 - Maintain a Zone 2 area within 1m of the baler.
 - Maintain a 2.5m exclusion zone around the baler during operation.
 - Maintain Zone 2 around completed bales for 30 minutes.
 - Maintain adequate ventilation in the MRF.
 - Ensure there are no sparks, flames, naked lights or smoking.
 - Maintain a good standard of housekeeping, especially around and under the baler.
 - Use protective clothing and glasses and make sure that fire extinguishers are available.
 - Draw up a standard operating procedure and train your operators.
- Although a flammable atmosphere could be generated in the baler or within the finished bales, tests show that this dissipates to safe levels very quickly in the surrounding air.

More detailed guidance on the above and on can flattening is available from BAMA.

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