Guidelines for Using 5-Gallon Solvent Cans

The 5-gallon solvent cans are provided by the Environmental Programs Division of the Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (OESO EP) for the convenience of the lab. When using the solvent cans, please use the following guidelines.

1. The cans are intended for solvent-type wastes. Acidic or caustic materials cannot be placed in the cans. If the mixture contains acidic or basic materials, the entire solution must have a pH between 5 and 9 before it is placed into the solvent can.

2. The liquid level must not be visible above the bottom of the flash arrestor (the perforated steel basket in the mouth of the can). The flash arrestor is not a strainer. All solids must be removed from wastes before addition to the can.

3. Solvent cans are to be kept closed when not actively adding or removing waste from them. All of the cans are equipped with stay-open lids, but lids should only be locked open when adding or removing wastes.

4. Please use the proper can for the solvents you are using. For example, halogenated cans (i.e. chloroform) are marked with a green and white “HALOGENATED” label and non-Halogenated cans (i.e. ethanol) are marked with a yellow and black “NON-HALOGENATED” label.

5. Each can must be marked with an accumulation label detailing the contents of the can (waste “chemical name”). Also, the cans must have an “open date” and a “fill date” listed on the label. The “open date” is the earliest date that waste is placed into the can whereas the “fill date” is the date when the container has been filled and will no longer be used to accumulate waste.

6. Please barcode and submit a pickup request through the online Waste Pickup Request System.

If you have any questions please contact OESO EP at 684-2794.