

Best Practice at London Bridge

'Can Crusher'

Introduction

Each year, the UK uses around 600 million aerosols which typically would be classed as Hazardous waste. At London Bridge we have just purchased from Pressing Solutions (www.pressingsolutions.co.uk) a can crushing unit. Can crushers provide a clean, easy and safe method of disposing of unwanted aerosols which converts what was classed as Hazardous Waste into Non-Hazardous waste. This unit is manufactured in the UK using quality stainless steel for long life and robustness.

What are aerosols made from?

The main part of an aerosol is the can and 60% of these are made from tinned steel. The remaining 40% are made from aluminium. Both of these metals are recyclable. Aerosols also contain some small plastic and rubber components including the lid, valve and dip tube.

How it works:



Constructed of stainless steel with a brass piercer, the handle is depressed to pierce the aerosol and the propellant is directed into the bottom chamber passing through carbon packs of varying sizes to extract as much as possible.

The method of processing aerosols makes the aerosol

safer to store and where the contents air dry this renders the aerosol non-hazardous in most cases.

Please note that some products such as petroleum based liquids, glue, foam fillers etc. are not suitable for this process.

Ensure that your aerosol is completely empty before you decide to recycle it. Aerosols can be stored for a long time.

Before any aerosols are punctured a competent person should conduct a COSHH assessment of the contents. Operatives must be fully trained in puncturing procedure and must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Do not pierce, crush or flatten the aerosol before recycling. Detach any loose or easily removable parts, such as the lid, and dispose them with the rest of your rubbish.



Benefits:

- It saves money by reducing hazardous waste disposal costs.
- Minimises waste by turning aerosol cans into recyclable scrap steel.
- Safely handles pressurised cans for secure and controlled disposal process