

# Special Information Sheet

## Storage of Aerosol Canisters



All aerosols are pressurised containers and often contain flammable products and propellants. So it is important to give some thought to their storage and display. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures increases the pressure inside the canister greatly and may lead to the canister deforming and possible explosion! Another effect of high temperatures on aerosol products is that the performance of the aerosol product may be affected, typically reducing the maximum number of uses from the canister.

### > **Storage of Aerosol canisters in vans and cars during Summer months**

Studies show that regardless of the colour of the car, its seats, or if the windows are open, interior temperatures can rise from 35°C (95°F) to 66°C (150 °F) in a matter of 20 minutes, with a sharp rise in the first 10 minutes. With such temperatures there is high risk of damage to the aerosol canister which could lead to a possible explosion causing damage to property or personal injury!

**NOTE:** Please take care when storing any aerosol canister product in a car or van. It may help to store canisters in a 'cool bag' / insulated bag. These are available from many retail outlets. Although this will not solve the problems associated with high temperatures, it may assist by slowing down the rate of rise of temperature. This should not be considered as an antidote to leaving aerosols in cars or vans however, as the risks remain the same.

### > **General storage guidelines**

- Storage areas should be cool and well ventilated and out of direct sunlight and always below 50°C (122°F). Please be especially careful about leaving aerosol canisters in vans, cars or sealed boots in the summer when temperatures inside a vehicle can become dangerously high.
- Do not store aerosols near stock room entrances and exits. Adequate access gangways should be provided and maintained to enable the stock room or store to be evacuated rapidly.
- Do not store aerosols near any source of heat.
- Do not store aerosols in direct sunlight.
- Do not spray on, or near, a naked flame, fire or near any heat or source of ignition (such as a pilot light or candle).
- Keep aerosols away from children.
- Do not allow smoking in storage areas or when using an aerosol canister product.
- Take care when splitting up packs of aerosols – the use of knives or sharp implements may pierce cans. The use of a concealed safety knife is recommended.
- Make sure that stacks of aerosols are level and stacked evenly. This will ensure that they do not spray off before they get to the customer.

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- Do not put heavy items on top of aerosols.
- Be careful when you are moving aerosols around and make sure that they are not damaged.
- Do not move stacks of aerosols by pulling them by the plastic shrink wrapping.
- Remove damaged or leaking aerosols immediately and take them to a well ventilated area (ideally outside) where there is no source of ignition.
- Avoid keeping aerosols in basements.
- Bear in mind that some aerosol propellants are heavier than air and so, if the aerosols are leaking, a flammable propellant may collect at low points or in basements.
- Aerosol canisters can be recycled. Please dispose of them in accordance with local guidelines.
- Never incinerate aerosol products regardless of whether they are full or empty as they can still explode - this can obviously be hazardous to personnel.

### > **Dealing with heat-damaged aerosol canisters**

- If any aerosol canister-based product has been exposed to high temperatures, the canister maybe damaged or become deformed. If you come across such a canister, please do not handle as the canister maybe seriously weakened, even enough to explode! Instead, keep well away and seek professional advice, such as the Fire Service in such cases.

Further information can be found at: [www.bama.co.uk](http://www.bama.co.uk) (British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association). Please contact detectortesters Technical Support ([support@detectortesters.com](mailto:support@detectortesters.com)) if you have any questions on the above.



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