

**C**ompressed gas cylinders are used extensively at USC facilities and laboratories for recurring research applications or one-time uses. However, accumulation of empty or unused gas cylinders quickly reduces available operating space, increases clutter, encourages makeshift safety restraints (or none), and aggregates demurrage fees.

Additionally, older gas cylinders may not have any labelling to identify their contents. These gas cylinders are then treated as unknowns and must be assayed before proper disposal.

It is very important, therefore, to remove and recycle or dispose of empty or unused gas cylinders from the lab, shop, or facility regularly before they become a hazard. Consult the [Compressed Gas Cylinder Storage Fact Sheet](#) for properly storing gas cylinders.

### ARE ALL GAS CYLINDERS AT USC REFILLABLE ?

No. Compressed gas cylinders at USC are either refillable or non-refillable. Refillable compressed gas cylinders typically have high gas capacity (200 cubic feet or more) and are provided by USC's Materials Management or an approved USC vendor (e.g., Matheson Specialty Gases or Gilmore). Non-refillable cylinders are for one-time use e.g., propane fuel canisters (14 oz.) or lecture bottles (~2 cf).

### DOES MY GAS CYLINDER HAVE TO BE EMPTY BEFORE I CAN DISPOSE OF IT?

No. Refillable and non-refillable compressed gas cylinders do not have to be empty before they are returned to the vendor or removed for disposal. NOTE: NEVER vent hazardous gas cylinder contents to the atmosphere. This is a violation of the EPA Title V. Clean Air Act and corresponding AQMD rules.



### WHAT I NEED TO DO...

- Ensure that empty gas cylinders are routinely removed from the lab, shop, or facility and recycled or disposed of properly.
- Store and restrain all compressed gas cylinders per USC requirements (see [Compressed Gas Cylinder Storage Fact Sheet](#)).
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling compressed gas cylinders.
- Contact [hazmat@usc.edu](mailto:hazmat@usc.edu) or (323) 442-2200 if I have any questions regarding gas cylinder removal and disposal.

### HOW DO I DISPOSE OF MY GAS CYLINDERS?

- For non-refillable gas cylinders (propane fuel canisters, lecture bottles) and/or refillable gas cylinders where the gas supplier or content is unknown:
  - Submit a request for a hazardous waste pick-up through [EHSA](#). Or,
  - Contact [hazmat@usc.edu](mailto:hazmat@usc.edu) or (323) 442-2200 to schedule a waste pick-up.
- For unused, refillable gas cylinders that are owned by the gas supplier:
  - Contact USC Materials Management at (213) 740-2467 for USC-owned gas cylinders.
  - Contact the gas supplier/cylinder owner (e.g., Matheson Specialty Gas, Gilmore) to remove the gas cylinder.



### REFERENCES

40 CFR 261 - [Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste](#)  
EPA - 1990 Clean Air Act Amendment Summary: [Title V](#)  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control - [Compressed Gas Cylinders](#)