

Material: Helium Tanks

Potential Hazards: Helium gas is non-reactive, colorless, and odorless. Helium will not burn, but when it is pressurized it becomes dangerous and poses a risk of exploding if exposed to intense heat or severe mechanical shock. This explosion is different from a chemical explosion due to combustion or oxidation of the gas. Do not inhale helium; it can cause asphyxiation or suffocation, which may lead to serious injury or death

Recycle/Reuse: For small, disposable helium tanks (such as those used for inflating balloons) that you know are full or partially full, check with neighbors, church groups or the local community to see if they can use them. If you know there is only a small volume of gas left in the tank, go outdoors and turn the valve all the way to the left, to allow remaining gas to escape, then recycle your empty containers at your local steel recycling business. You can also contact your Solid Waste Agency to determine if they will accept empty containers in your recycling bins.

Proper Disposal: Weight is not a good indication of when the tank is low or empty because the difference between the weight of a full helium tank and an empty one is only a few grams. Most Regional Collection Centers will NOT take empty Helium tanks.

Green Alternatives: Use paper decorations that can be recycled.