

# DISPOSAL OF SMALL HELIUM TANKS



**WARNING:** Failure to follow instructions for safe disposal of non-refillable helium tanks can result in an immediate release of gaseous helium resulting in personal injury, property damage, or both.



1. Only attempt disposal of non-refillable helium tanks when completely empty.
2. Take the tank to a well-ventilated area. Fully open the valve handle by turning it counter-clockwise. Press and hold down on the tilt-nozzle (**photo 2**) until the tank is empty. Listen and feel for pressure discharging from the tilt-nozzle. The tank is empty when no sound is heard or pressure is felt.
3. Unscrew and remove the tilt-nozzle (**photo 3**) either by hand or with the help of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wrench.
4. Take the tank to a steel recycling center or place with curbside recycling pick-up. However, please note that recycling programs for this product may not exist in your area.



**If your local steel recycling center or curbside recycling program will not accept the empty non-refillable helium tank, please continue with these additional instructions.**

5. Place the tip of a flat-head screwdriver on the inside serration of the rupture disc located on the shoulder of the tank (**photo 5**).
6. With a hammer or mallet, LIGHTLY tap the handle of the screwdriver to pierce the rupture disc open (**photo 6**).
7. Carefully, completely open the rupture disc. With a permanent marker, draw a large circle around the open rupture disc and write the word "EMPTY" on the tank (**photo 7; next page**).
8. Once the rupture disc is open, the tank can be recycled with other steel recyclables at your local steel or metal recycling center or through your normal curbside solid waste collection.



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If your local steel recycling center will not accept the punctured tank, dispose of the tank on your curbside collection day.

