

WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Hazardous waste is waste that can catch on fire, react, explode under certain circumstances, or that is corrosive or toxic.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has set stringent requirements for the safe management of these wastes created by industries.

Some common household hazardous products became known as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). These can pose a risk to people and the environment if they are not properly used, stored and disposed. Congress, however, chose not to regulate HHW because of the impracticality. Every household generates from 20 to 40 pounds of HHW each year and it is important to manage its disposal in an environmentally safe manner. The following information has been provided to help you manage and dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

DO'S AND DON'TS

DO'S

1. DO buy the right amount of product for the job you have to do. Read the label carefully before you purchase. It is your responsibility to use and dispose of household products and materials safely.
2. DO use up any product that you buy - or if you can't, give it to someone who can. Make sure that any product you give away is in its original container with its label intact and any use and disposal instructions included. Give leftover paint to a local community center or theater group; donate leftover pesticides to the local garden club, etc.
3. DO recycle wastes if you can. Take used or contaminated motor oil, transmission fluid, kerosene and diesel fuel to an automotive service center, oil recycling station, or authorized collection site; turn in your old car battery, etc.
4. DO dispose of products that go down the drain during normal use by pouring them down the drain with plenty of water. Dispose of each product separately, small amounts at a time. This includes sink and drain cleaners, laundry products, soaps, etc.
5. DO empty all aerosol cans by depressing the button until no more product comes out, before putting in the trash. Never throw empty aerosol containers into an incinerator or trash compactor.
6. DO follow all label directions.
7. DO call the product manufacturer or your local environmental or public health agency with questions about any material which you think may pose a disposal problem.
8. DO protect yourself, your family, your pets, refuse workers, emergency responders, and the environment by wisely selecting, carefully using, and properly disposing of household chemicals.
9. DO choose natural alternatives or less hazardous products whenever possible.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

DO'S AND DON'TS

DON'TS

1. DON'T dispose of any materials by pouring them into your back yard or into a storm sewer
2. DON'T bury any containers, empty or full, in your back yard.
3. DON'T attempt to use a fireplace or a back yard barbecue as an incinerator.
4. DON'T dispose of anything in dumps by the side of the road.
5. DON'T remove product labels.
6. DON'T remove products from their original containers for storage or future use.
7. DON'T refill empty containers, even with the same material, unless the label recommends it. Once a container is empty, dispose of it. Follow the label instructions about rinsing the container or wrapping it in newspaper.
8. DON'T mix house hold cleaning products. Mixing different types of cleaning products, especially those containing chlorine, can produce very dangerous vapors.
9. DON'T discard HHW in your regular trash, it will contaminate the local landfill.