

Household Hazardous Waste Services

What Happens to Household Hazardous Waste?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate 1.6 million tons of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) per year. The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the basement and garage and in storage closets. During the 1980s, many communities started special collection days or permanent collection sites for handling HHW. In 1997, there were more than 3,000 HHW permanent programs and collection events throughout the United States.






Congratulations! You have made the right move in bringing your household hazardous waste (HHW) to your local HHW collection program. Thank you for taking this step in securing a safe and healthy environment for your community. Have you ever wondered what happens to these items once you've dropped them off?

Item	Potential Hazard Properties & Ingredients	Disposal Method
AUTOMOTIVE		
Antifreeze	Toxic- contains ethylene glycol	Recycle
Automotive Batteries	Corrosive- contains sulfuric acid	Recycle
Brake Fluid	Corrosive, Toxic- contains glycols	Destructive Incineration
Gasoline / Fuel	Flammable- contains hydrocarbons	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Motor Oil	Combustible- contains petroleum distillates	Recycle
Oil Filters	Combustible- contains petroleum distillates	Recycle
Transmission Fluid	Combustible- contains petroleum distillates	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
PAINTS / SOLVENTS		
Latex Paint	Toxic- contains resins and pigments	Recycle or Reuse
Oil Based Paint	Flammable- contains hydrocarbons and heavy metals	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Paint Stripper / Remover	Flammable, Corrosive- contains methylene chloride, petroleum distillates	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Solvent Based Paint Products, Thinners	Flammable- contains petroleum distillates, acetone, toluene, ethanol, methylene chloride	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Wood Preservatives	Toxic- contains pentachlorophenol (penta or PCP), creosote, copper, zinc, chromium, arsenic	Destructive Incineration
LAWN & GARDEN		
Ant Spray / Bait	Toxic- contains various poisons	Destructive Incineration
Fertilizers	Toxic or Oxidizing- contains nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium	Destructive Incineration
Fungicides	Toxic- contains various poisons	Destructive Incineration
Pesticides / Herbicides	Toxic- contains various poisons such as diazinon, methyl bromide, paraformaldehyde, atrazine, malathion	Destructive Incineration
Rat / Mouse Poisons	Toxic- contains warfarin, strychnine, bromethalin or other various poisons	Destructive Incineration
HOBBY		
Arts & Crafts Supplies	Flammable- most contain petroleum distillates	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Photo Chemicals	Corrosive, Toxic- contains silverhalides, hydroquinone, silver, citric acid, ammonium thiosulfate	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment or Destructive Incineration



Item	Potential Hazard Properties & Ingredients	Disposal Method
CLEANERS		
Bathroom Cleaners	Corrosive, Toxic- contains acidic compounds such as phosphoric acid	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment
Bleach	Corrosive, Oxidizing- contains sodium hypochlorite	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment
Disinfectants	Corrosive, Toxic- contains various ingredients such as ammonium compounds, phenolic compounds, pine Oil	Destructive Incineration
Drain Openers	Corrosive- contains sodium hydroxide	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment
Furniture Polish	Flammable- contains petroleum distillates	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Oven Cleaners	Corrosive- contains sodium hydroxide or other corrosive alkalis	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment
HOME & PET		
Adhesives / Glues	Flammable, Toxic- contains cyanoacrylates	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Aerosols	Flammable, Toxic- propellants contain volatile organic compounds, and depending on particular type of aerosol product, may contain paints, cleaners or pesticides	Destructive Incineration
Asphalt/Roofing Tar / Sealers	Flammable, Toxic- contains petroleum distillates, asbestos	Destructive Incineration
Electronics	Toxic- contains lead and other heavy metals	Recycle
Flea & Tick Products	Toxic or Corrosive- may contain permethrin, carbaryl, or methorene	Destructive Incineration
Fluorescent Light Tubes	Toxic- contains mercury	Recycle
Household Batteries, Alkaline ("dry cell")	Corrosive- contains potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide	Hazardous Waste landfill
Household Batteries, Rechargeable	Corrosive, Toxic- may contain nickel-cadmium, lithium or mercury	Recycle
Lighter Fluid	Flammable- contains hydrocarbons	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Medication	Toxic- both over the counter and prescription medications	Destructive Incineration
Mercury Thermometer / Thermostat	Toxic- contains mercury	Recycle
Mothballs	Toxic- contains paradichlorobenzene or naphthalene	Destructive Incineration
Nail Polish Remover	Flammable- contains acetone	Energy Recovery, used to fuel cement kiln or incinerator
Pool Chemicals	Corrosive, Oxidizing, Toxic- includes various chemicals such as chlorinated isocyanurates, lithium hypochlorite, sodium bicarbonate, potassium monopersulfate, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, and certain ammonium, brominated, copper and silver compounds, and muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid), sodium bisulphate, sodium carbonate	Neutralize, discharge to wastewater treatment or Destructive Incineration
Propane Cylinders	Flammable- contains propane	Recycle

While this list is not comprehensive, it does contain many of the most common household hazardous waste items. When you are not sure if a household product is hazardous, look for these warnings on the label.

Toxic / Poison - can cause illness or injury; highly toxic, can be harmful or fatal if swallowed; use only in a well-ventilated area		Flammable / Combustible - can be easily ignited, do not use near heat or flame, do not smoke while using this product	
Corrosive - can burn and destroy living tissue, causes severe burns on contact, can burn eyes, skin, throat		Danger - more severely hazardous or toxic; can cause permanent serious health effects (skin burns or stomach ulcers)	
Irritant - can irritate living tissue		Caution / Warning - generally mildly to moderately hazardous or toxic; can cause temporary adverse health effects (skin irritation or vomiting)	