

2007 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Most of us have old cans of paint, paint remover, garden chemicals and other hazardous household materials that we no longer want stored in our garage or basement. But what exactly is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

- Acids/Alkalines
- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Bleach
- Car batteries
- Cleaners and polishes
- Disinfectants
- Gas cylinders
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Mercury
- Paint
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Solvents
- Used motor oil



What Are the Dangers of Improper Disposal?

Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers; contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets; and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house.

Ohio EPA's [Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management](#) (DSIWM) also has lots of information about disposing of household waste, so feel free to give them a call at (614) 644-2621, or your local district office's DSIWM staff. For more information about the safe management of household hazardous waste, check out Ohio EPA's brochure, [Guide to Safe Management of Household Hazardous Waste](#).

Move to Reduce and Recycle

One way to reduce the potential concerns associated with household hazardous waste is to take actions that use nonhazardous or less hazardous components to accomplish the task at hand. Individuals can do this by reducing the amount and/or toxicity of products with hazardous components, use only the amount needed. Leftover materials can be shared with neighbors or donated to a business charity, or government agency, or given to a household hazardous waste program. Excess pesticide might be offered to a greenhouse or garden center, for example, and theater groups also need surplus paint. Some communities have even organized waste exchanges where household hazardous waste can be swapped or given away.

Recycling is an economical and environmentally sound way to handle some types of household hazardous waste, such as used automobile batteries and oil. Auto parts stores and service stations frequently accept used automobile batteries, and 80 percent of these batteries are currently recycled. In addition, hundreds of local governments working with civic organizations and private firms have implemented successful used oil recycling programs. Many service stations have begun collecting used oil as a service to their

customers. Check with [local solid waste officials](#) to find out if a used oil recycling program is operating in your area.

Safe Management Methods

Because of the potential risks associated with household hazardous wastes, it is important that people always use, store and dispose of materials containing hazardous substances safely:

Tip #1

Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers. Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers and never remove the labels. Corroding containers, however, should be repackaged and clearly labeled. This will prevent accidental ingestion and also can help protect sanitation workers.

Tip #2

When leftovers remain, never mix household hazardous waste with other products. Incompatibilities may react, ignite, or explode; contaminated household hazardous waste may become unrecyclable.

Tip #3

Follow any instructions for disposal and use provided on the label.

Tip #4

Take household hazardous waste to a local collection program, if available. [Contact your local solid waste management district](#) to see if they hold free HHW collection events or check out the [HHW Collection Events Schedule](#) for events in your area.

If your solid waste management district isn't on the schedule, call the phone number provided to find out when and where to take your HHW and what materials will and won't be accepted.