



WHAT IS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Any material that poses a risk to human health or environment. We use hazardous waste products in our homes every day! These products become a hazard when improperly used or disposed of. The properties that make these products hazardous are:

Flammable – easily sets on fire

Corrosive/Caustic – burns and destroys living tissue on contact

Explosive/Reactive – detonates or explodes by exposure to heat, sudden shock, or pressure

Toxic/Poison – capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through the skin

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Federal law requires these products to be labeled with warnings about their use, storage, and disposal. These labels include “signal words” to help you quickly identify hazardous products. The words “Danger” (most toxic), “Warning”, and “Caution” (least toxic) are used to help identify the degrees of toxicity.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

The average household throws 15.5 pounds of hazardous materials into the trash each year! The proper disposal of household hazardous waste can help to reduce the impact of storm water runoff pollution. Dumping products into septic systems or landfills may contaminate ground and surface waters ruining drinking water and killing fish and wildlife. Household hazardous waste thrown away in your garbage could react with other wastes during collection, handling, and transportation. Flammable or reactive household chemicals can release toxic fumes or even explode if they are mixed together in the trash, causing fires or injury to workers. Once deposited into the landfill, there are further opportunities for co-mingling/mixing or reacting with other chemicals or rainwater.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Shop for environmentally friendly products! To find these products, look for words and phrases on the product labels such as; non-toxic, all-natural, earth-friendly, green, safe for use around children and pets, environmentally safe, or 100% biodegradable.
- Make your own household cleaning products! Refer back to the website article from 11.15.13.
- If you buy hazardous products, store them safely!
 - Close lids tight so products will not dry out, evaporate, or leak
 - Store products in a cool, dry area away from sources of heat, spark, or flame
 - Store products in original container with label intact

- If a container is deteriorating, place the entire container in sealable glass or plastic container, surround with non-flammable absorbent (such as cat litter) and bring it to your local household hazardous waste collection event
- Use products safely!
 - Read the label carefully before use and follow directions
 - Use only the recommended amount
 - **Never mix products!**
 - Use products in a well-ventilated rooms and avoid breathing fumes
- Minimize waste! If you cannot use the product up, you might share what you cannot use with a friend or take it to a swap center available. You may also want to recycle the waste; most towns now accept used oil for recycling. Usable items, such as paint, may be donated to local service organizations.

DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY!

Many communities hold special collection days or have special drop-off sites for harmful household products. Contact your local trash service for help, or contact EARTH 911 by calling 1-877-EARTH-911 (1-877-3278-4911), or visiting www.earth911.org.

EXAMPLES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Automotive: Antifreeze, brake fluid, car batteries, degreasers, gasoline, grease, motor oil, transmission fuel, window washer fluid

Pesticides: Baygon, DDT, flea collars/spray, herbicides, moth balls/crystals, mouse/rat poison

Paint-related Products: Driveway sealer, oil-based paint, paint strippers/thinners, primer, spray paint, turpentine, water sealer

Household Cleaners: Air fresheners, bleach, disinfectants, floor wax, furniture polish, lye, oven cleaner, rug/upholstery cleaner

Fuels: Camping fuel, kerosene, lighter fluid

Personal Care: nail polish/remover, hair coloring, hydrogen peroxide, medications, mercury thermometers

Home Office: Ammonia, computer screens, consumer electronics, ink-jet cartridges, toner



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All hazardous waste information was retrieved from:

Delaware Estuary Program. *Household Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet*. N.p.: Delaware Estuary Program, 2000. U.S. EPA Region 2. Web. <<http://www.delawareestuary.org/publications/factsheets/Houshazw.pdf>>.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. *Environmental Fact Sheet*. Concord: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 2009. Print.

U.S. EPA. *Be Smart About Using Household Products*. Washington D.C.: U.S. EPA, 2006. Print.