

What are household hazardous wastes?

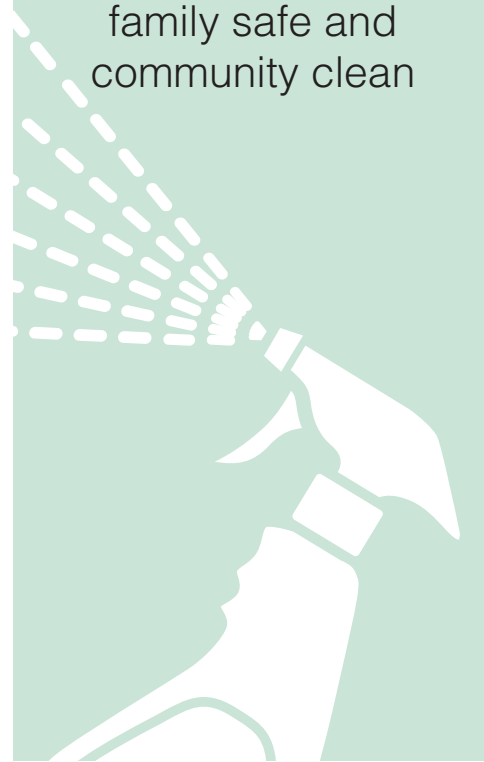
Because of their chemical makeup, household hazardous wastes may be harmful to people and animals as well. Before you buy, always check the product labels. Look for labeling that reads "Danger," "Warning," "Caution," "Toxic," "Corrosive," "Flammable" or "Poison." These will tell you if the product is harmful and how to use, store and dispose of it safely. Pay close attention to labels on:

- ▶ Automotive oil and fuel additives
- ▶ Paint thinners, strippers and removers
- ▶ Grease and rust removers
- ▶ Drain openers
- ▶ Oven cleaners
- ▶ Glues
- ▶ Bug and weed killers
- ▶ Mold and mildew removers



Household Hazardous Wastes:

What you should know to keep your family safe and community clean



A message from
Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III

Dear Friend,

Where do hazardous wastes come from?

Many people, when asked this question, will think of smoke-belching factories and storage yards where rusting 55-gallon drums leak chemicals into the ground. But industry isn't the only producer of wastes that do serious harm to our environment.

Ordinary household products can also threaten the environment. For example, when household hazardous wastes like motor oil are disposed of carelessly, they can contaminate soil and drinking water supplies. In the past, all types of wastes were thrown out with ordinary household trash because of a lack of awareness.

That attitude has changed a lot, however. State governments across the country are moving to eliminate the most harmful substances from the waste stream. Examples here in New York include efforts to properly handle waste oil and car batteries.

Communities across New York State have begun to realize that household hazardous wastes can be a real problem, and rather than suffer the consequences of contamination, they have invested in pickup programs. Many municipalities now offer hazardous waste removal programs, whether as a year-round service or a special "household hazardous waste" trash pickup day.

For more information on household hazardous waste, call the number or log on to the website in this brochure for a summary of the state's household hazardous waste collection programs. Please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any concerns about this or any other topic.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III
Member of Assembly

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What's being done about hazardous waste disposal?

Local household hazardous waste collection and disposal programs provide ways for residents to dispose of household hazardous wastes separately from other trash, educate residents as to which household products are dangerous to the environment and explain how they should be disposed of properly.

Often, people don't know which chemicals harm the environment and which don't. With these programs, local governments are better able to inform their residents about what they can do.

Many household hazardous wastes can often be disposed of safely and even reused. Together, we can educate people, and provide them with safe disposal methods.

For additional information, please visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8485.html or contact:

NYSDEC
Division of Materials Management
Bureau of Permitting and Planning
Albany, NY 12233-7253
518-402-8678

You may also want to contact your local Poison Control Center. Call 800-222-1222 for additional information.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests logging on to www.earth911.com or calling 800-CLEANUP.

What can you do about household hazardous wastes?

Plan ahead

When considering a product that could be classified as hazardous waste:

- ▶ Buy only what you need to do the job; don't use an excessive amount of the product
- ▶ Ask salespeople for the least toxic products
- ▶ Use the least hazardous alternatives. For a list of alternatives, please visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8781.html

How to dispose of them

Recycling – some hazardous wastes may be recycled. For a full list of items that can be recycled, please visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8781.html.

Hazardous waste removal programs

Many municipalities and counties in New York State have separate disposal programs in order to remove hazardous waste from ordinary household trash. Visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8780.html or call the NYSDEC at 518-402-8678 for details about your municipality's program.

If your community has neither a permanent collection site nor a special collection day, you might be able to drop off certain products at local businesses for recycling or proper disposal. Some local garages, for example, may accept used motor oil for recycling.

Never

- ▶ Pour harmful household products down a sink, toilet or bathtub drain unless the products are made for that purpose
- ▶ Pour products like used oil or bug killer on the ground or into storm drains
- ▶ Store leftover products in food or beverage containers

Try alternative products when available

For everyday tasks, try household products that are less harmful. Remember to follow the same rules about storing these products and never mix these products together.

- ▶ Glass cleaner: Mix 1 tbsp. of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 qt. of water
- ▶ Toilet bowl cleaner: Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar
- ▶ Furniture polish: Mix 1 tsp. of lemon juice in 1 pt. of vegetable oil
- ▶ Rug deodorizer: Sprinkle liberally with baking soda and vacuum after 15 minutes
- ▶ Plant spray: Wipe leaves with mild soap and water and rinse
- ▶ Mothballs: Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint or white peppercorns

