



Manage + Reduce + Dispose of **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Many common household products can be classified as hazardous waste if such products are spent or no longer useable. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special care when you dispose of them. Protect your home and the environment by learning how to manage, reduce and dispose of hazardous products safely.

What is household hazardous waste?

A spent product is considered household hazardous waste when it has one or more of the following chemical properties:

- **Corrosive/Caustic**
Damages human tissue.
- **Toxic/Poisonous**
Causes injury or death if swallowed, absorbed through skin or inhaled.
- **Reactive/Explosive**
Capable of causing an explosion.
- **Flammable/Combustible**
Catches fire under certain conditions.

Common sources of household hazardous waste include the following:

- Cleaning products
- Automotive products
- Lawn and home products
- Workshop supplies and home repair products
- Flammable products
- Miscellaneous (for example, swimming pool chemicals, mercury thermometers, thermostats, electronics, fluorescent tubes, and compact fluorescent lightbulbs)

How can I safely manage household hazardous waste?

Buy products wisely.

- Read the label and buy non-hazardous alternatives or less hazardous products.
- Buy only what you need to avoid storing leftover product.

Store hazardous products safely.

- Close lids tightly 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 the original container with the label intact.
- Separate flammables, oxidizers, corrosives, and poisons. Store them on separate shelves.

Use products safely.

- Read the label carefully before use and follow directions.
- Use only the recommended amount.
- Never mix products.
- Use products in well ventilated rooms and avoid inhaling fumes.



Even empty containers of household hazardous waste can pose hazards because of the remaining residual chemicals, so handle them with care.

How can I reduce household hazardous waste?

Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. When shopping for items such as multipurpose household cleaners, furniture polish, toilet cleaners, laundry detergent, bug sprays and insect pest control, consider choosing environmentally friendly, natural products or search online for simple recipes you can use to create your own.



Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year.

How should I dispose of household hazardous waste?

Always dispose of household hazardous waste properly and safely. To safely dispose of household waste:

- Follow the disposal instructions on the product label.
- Share leftover product(s) with someone who can use it.
- Check with local businesses, or where the product was purchased, and ask if they accept recycled waste.
- Contact your local city/county recycling or hazardous waste facility to ask about waste collection dates and accepted products. Visit www.earth911.com to search for nearby recycling facilities by zip code.

Examples of improper disposal of household hazardous waste can include pouring it down the drain, on the ground, and into storm sewers; or putting it out with the regular trash. The dangers of such disposal methods pose a potential risk to people, animals, and the environment.



You can safely dispose of paint in regular household garbage if it is completely dried out. Other liquid hazardous waste can be mixed with generic cat litter and double bagged before disposal if no other option is available.

Helpful Resources

EPA Safer Choice

www.epa.gov/saferchoice

Earth911

www.earth911.com

Atlanta Recycles

www.atlantarecycles.com

Center for Hard to Recycle Materials

www.livethrive.org/charm

For More Information

Georgia Department of Public Health

Environmental Health Section

Chemical Hazards Program

(404) 657-6534

www.dph.georgia.gov/chemical-hazards

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