

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Household waste can be just as toxic to the environment and human health as industrial waste if not disposed of properly. Household hazardous materials (HHM) are categorized as hazardous if they are corrosive, toxic, flammable and/or reactive. Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous materials per year.



Example: Drinking Water

- 79 percent of Iowans get their drinking water from groundwater sources.
- If improperly used and/or disposed of, HHM often end up in drinking water. HHM dumped in storm sewers can quickly contaminate surface water. Surface water is also used as drinking water and is critical for fish and aquatic wildlife and recreation.

- Contaminated water leads to water purity problems, often resulting in costly water treatment problems.

Here are some general recommendations for preventing, storing and disposing of unwanted household hazardous materials.

Prevention of Excess Materials

- Purchase only the amount that you expect to use within a reasonable time frame.
- Remember to keep water-based products from freezing (i.e. latex paint) to extend their useful lifetime.
- Purchase and use a more environmentally friendly product (i.e. biodegradable).
- Redistribute unwanted materials.



Examples of Household Hazardous Materials

- Used Oil
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Solvents
- Oil-Based Paint
- Fluorescent Lamps/Bulbs
- Many Cleaners
- Non-alkaline batteries
- Mercury thermostats or thermometers
- Bleach
- Pool chemicals



Avoid Potential Risks:

- Never store hazardous products in food containers.
- Keep products in their original containers and never remove labels.
- Never mix HHM with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode, and contaminated HHM might become unrecyclable.
- Remember to follow any instructions for use and disposal provided on product labels.
- Call your local environmental, health, or solid waste agency for instructions on proper use and disposal and to learn about local HHM drop off programs and upcoming collection days.

Nearby Counties with Collection Centers

Boone County

Residents should contact the Boone County Regional Collection Center at **(515) 433-0591** for a list of what they will take and drop off hours.

Story County

Residents can take HHM to the Resource Recovery Plant in Ames, IA during normal business hours. Call **(515) 239-5137** or **(877) 639-5661** for more information or check out their website at:

<http://www.cityofames.org/workswb/resourcerecovery/default.htm>

Marshall County

Residents should contact the Marshall County Regional Collection Center at **(641) 752-0646** for a list of what they will take and drop off hours.

Polk County

Residents can take HHM to Polk County's HHW Collection Facility located in Bondurant, IA. Call **(888) 603-2739** or **(515) 967-5512** or check their website at:

http://www.mwatoday.com/mwa_reg.html

If your county isn't listed contact the IDNR at **(515) 281-5859** or **(515) 281-7982** and tell them what county you are in and that you would like to properly dispose of your household hazardous materials.

Some counties will hold single day events check you local newspaper or contact your local landfill.



References

<http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/hhm/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/garbage/hhw.htm>

DISCLAIMER: You should contact your regional collection facility to make sure they can take the materials you have. Services are for household hazardous materials only.

Household Hazardous Materials



PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

