

HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF MY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SAFELY?

Household hazardous wastes should be brought to community household hazardous waste collection days or drop-off locations for proper disposal. Contact your tribe's environmental department or your local trash service for more information. Earth911.org also provides information on where you can properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Contact them at (1-877-EARTH-911), or visit www.earth911.org.

General Disposal Recommendations

1. **Follow the label instructions.** Some labels give disposal recommendations. Read the label carefully and follow the manufacturer's recommendation.
2. **Use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without.** When products are fully used up as intended there is no hazardous waste. Buy only as much as you need!
3. **Recycle.** Recycling means reclaiming the potential waste so that the product is useable again. Recycling helps reduce the overall demand for hazardous household products and the amount of waste produced.
4. **Donate.** Donate paint, household cleaners, or other products to a local charity, church or service organization. Such items need to be in the original containers with labels.
5. **Give leftovers to someone who will use them up for their intended purpose.** Reuse products such as paint thinner and paint.

For more information about household hazardous waste management, contact your tribe's environmental office, or see the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/hhw.htm>

Place
Stamp
Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Waste Management Office, WST-7
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE: A GUIDE FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS



In This Brochure:

- What is Household Hazardous Waste?
- What is so Dangerous about Household Hazardous Waste?
- What Should I Look for on a Container Label?
- How Can I Avoid Risks?
- Alternatives to Hazardous Household Products (Insert)
- How Can I Dispose of my Household Hazardous Waste Safely?



WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Household hazardous waste is leftover household products that contain **ignitable**, **toxic**, **reactive**, or **corrosive** ingredients. These products require special care when you dispose of them.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS TYPICALLY CONSIDERED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES



Workshop and Painting Supplies

- Adhesives & glues • Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel paint • Paint thinners & removers • Turpentine • Photographic chemicals • Stains & finishes

Indoor Pesticides • Ant & cockroach sprays and baits • Bug sprays • Flea repellents and shampoos • Insecticides • Moth repellents • Mouse & rat poisons/ baits



Automotive Products • Refrigerants & antifreeze • Automotive batteries

- Carburetor & fuel injection cleaners
- Fuel & fuel additives • Motor oil
- Propane tanks • Transmission, brake & starter fluids



Cleaning Products • Bleach • Drain cleaners • Oven cleaners • Toilet cleaners • Tub, tile & shower cleaners • Wood & metal cleaners and polishes



Lawn and Garden Products

- Fungicides • Wood preservatives
- Herbicides • Insecticides



Miscellaneous • Batteries • Driveway sealer • Fluorescent light bulbs • Home heating oil • Kerosene • Mercury thermostats & thermometers



WHAT IS SO DANGEROUS ABOUT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Household hazardous waste can pose hazards to children and pets if left around the house. If poured down the drain or on the ground, household hazardous waste can cause physical injury to sanitation workers or wastewater treatment systems.

A waste is hazardous if:



Ignitable = Flammable, ignites easily



Toxic = Poisonous



Reactive = Reacts violently when exposed to heat, shock, or other chemicals



Corrosive = Very high or low pH. May cause burns to the skin and corrode metal

In the Trash

While the quantity of household hazardous waste you generate in your home may seem small, consider everyone who lives within your community disposing of their waste over a 50 year period. At landfills, buried household hazardous waste can seep into groundwater and contaminate drinking water or the surrounding soil. When chemicals are dumped into trash trucks, they can combine and cause dangerous reactions, endangering the collection drivers.

On the Ground and Down the Drain

If you pour household hazardous waste in ditches, storm drains, or gutters it can poison plants and wildlife, contaminate the soil, and harm children and adults who come into contact with it. When it rains, this pollution can travel and endanger nearby streams, rivers, and lakes.

When Burned

Never burn household hazardous waste. Burning household hazardous waste can potentially cause explosions and/or release toxic fumes. Store household hazardous waste away from any sources of flame and heat.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR ON A CONTAINER LABEL?

Before you buy, always check the product labels. Look for labeling that reads "DANGER," "WARNING," "CAUTION," "TOXIC," "CORROSIVE," "FLAMMABLE," or "POISON." These warnings tell you if the product is harmful to you, your family and the environment, and how to use, store and dispose of it safely.



HOW CAN I AVOID RISKS?

- **Always** follow instructions for use and disposal provided on product labels.
- **Use** and store products containing hazardous substances safely away from children and pets.
- **Never** store hazardous products in food containers; keep them in their original containers and never remove labels.
- **When** leftovers remain, never mix with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode. For example, any product containing ammonia (such as glass cleaner) if mixed with any product containing chlorine bleach will produce deadly chlorine gas.
- **Call** your tribal or local environmental, health, or solid waste agency for instructions on proper use and disposal and to learn about local household hazardous waste drop off programs and upcoming collection days.
- **Never** pour harmful household products down a sink, toilet or bathtub drain unless the products are made for that purpose and never pour products like used oil or bug killer on the ground or into storm drains.
- **Use** safe alternatives listed in the insert.