

HOUSEHOLD WASTE (Hazardous, Ordinary, and Recyclable)

A Public Service of the Churchill Area Environmental Council
2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh PA 15235 2003

On a national basis that includes the whole economy, each of us is responsible for producing about 27 pounds of hazardous waste and 250 pounds of other waste (e.g., paper, metal, glass) per year. **Recycling programs** have been successful in collecting some of the **non-hazardous household waste**, but less so at finding stable end markets for goods made from this waste. You can help by buying products containing the highest percentage of "post-consumer" waste.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is a much more difficult problem. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a hazardous substance as one that is flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. Why, then, are households still permitted to dispose of such dangerous materials as if they were innocuous? The answer is twofold:

- 1) Households are exempt from the regulations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and its 1984 amendments. These are the federal laws that set strict standards for the disposal of even small amounts of industrial hazardous wastes. Such commercial wastes must be inventoried, manifested, and taken to licensed treatment or disposal facilities (Ohio is the nearest) by approved haulers.
- 2) Most local governments, fearing high costs and liability, have not yet instituted community "toxics" collection days.

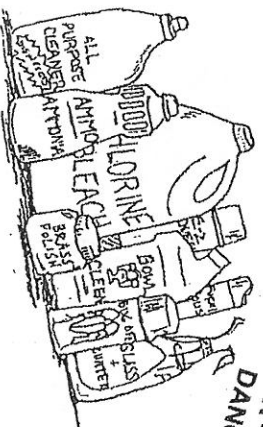
Thus, many of us still toss paint, solvents, cleaners, batteries, and pesticides into the trash (and off to the landfill) or down the drain (entering our water supply). Fortunately, most active landfills in Pennsylvania are regulated and designed to prevent or minimize leakage, but they have imperfect barriers, and municipal landfills make up half of all EPA Superfund cleanup sites. Water treatment plants cannot handle most of the hazardous solvents, cleaners, and fuel spills entering their systems through sanitary drains. Storm sewers drain directly to creeks and streams, threatening whole ecosystems as well as our drinking water when toxic materials enter them.

Source reduction and recycling are the best and most cost effective ways of dealing with all forms of **household waste**. Here are some general guidelines with more specifics contained in the accompanying table and list.

- 1) Know which products are hazardous. Many automotive, garden, cleaning, and pool supplies are on the list of offenders. If you use **pesticides**, select the least toxic type for the specific problem. In order of increasing toxicity, pesticides are labeled on the package: **CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, or POISON**.
- 2) Think! Do you really need the item? Is there a non-toxic or less toxic alternative? **Consult the table on the reverse side.**
- 3) If you must purchase a hazardous product, buy only the minimum needed for the job, and use it up! Share any leftovers with a neighbor. If any of it must be discarded, read the label for recommended disposal instructions.
- 4) **Never mix products** or pour chemicals into unlabeled containers for storage. Do not dump hazardous liquids on the ground or pour them into a house drain unless that is the recommended disposal method.
- 5) **Recycle!** Take used motor oil and car batteries to service stations. Sort paper, glass, plastic, and metal for recycling at the curb or at a drop-off center. **Consult the list on the last page.**
- 6) Get involved! Urge your government representatives to include hazardous waste in their long-range solid waste management plans. A regional collection was held for the first time ever in May, 2003 at Heinz Field. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force is working to make this an annual event. For current information log onto www.cmu.edu/greenpractices/hhw.htm or call the Allegheny County recycling coordinator at 412-578-8047.

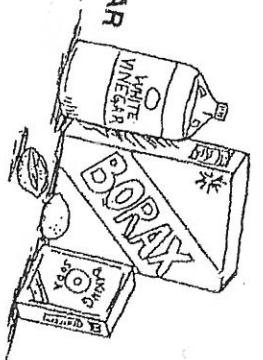
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CAUTION - WARNING
DANGER

Change to:
BAKING SODA - BORAX
WASHING SODA
LEMON JUICE - WHITE VINEGAR



REFERENCE TABLE - HAZARDOUS WASTE

Substance/Haz. Ingredients	Disposal*	Alternatives
Home and Garden Pests		
Fungicides: benomyl (Benlate), Bordeaux mix, captan, folpet, sulfur, zineb (zinc)	T US	Buy rust- and wilt-resistant varieties of plants Treat problems early, locally; use sulfur/zinc products
Herbicides: (Kill unwanted vegetation)	T US	Hand weed; hoe; keep grass mowed Apply herbicides only to difficult spots and problems; do not broadcast or spray over large lawn areas; some products kill all plants (Round-up), so read labels completely
2,4-D & 2,4,5-T (Weed-B-Gone); dicamba (Banex)		
Glyphosate (Round-Up, Kleen-Up, Rodeo)		
Atrazine (Atrax; Scott's Weed & Feed)		
Pesticides: (Kill insects, fleas, ticks, mites, other animals)	T CI US	Insecticidal (Safer) soap, ladybeetles, mantids Hand pick into jar of hot water; keep garden clean and tidy Wipe houseplant leaves with soapy water; rinse
Botanical (rotenone, pyrethrin, nicotine)		
Organophosphate (parathion, malathion, diazanon, PCB, chlorpyrifos, e.g. Dursban)		Dab rubbing alcohol on mealy bug masses with Q-tip Use bio-controls, e.g. Bt (Dipe!), or garlic/basil around vegetables, roses, and other susceptible plants
Chlorinated hydrocarbon (DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, lindane, heptachlor)		Apply chemicals sparingly/locally for severe problems only
Flea/tick products (methoprene [Fronline, Precor], Chlorpyrifos [Dursban], malathion)	T US	Vacuum rugs and wash pet bedding; use brewer's yeast in pet's diet; flea comb; put rosemary in pet sleep area; use methoprene as directed by vet. for severe cases
Mothballs (naphthalene)	T U	Cedar chips, lavender, rosemary or mint sachets in closets
Repellent, dog, e.g. "OC-10" (capsaicin)	I U	None; avoid encounters with unfriendly animals
Repellent, insect, e.g. "OFF" (DEET - N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide ethohexadiol)	TICar S	Screens, protective clothing, citronella products
Roach/ant killers (organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethrin)	T US	Spray with strained infusion of 1 cigarette per quart of water Roach traps [Roach Motel], baking soda or boric acid along baseboards; chili powder and bay leaves to hinder entry
Rodent bait (mice, rats, moles, chipmunks, etc.) (arsenic, strychnine, coumatrin [warfarin])	T S	Traps; remove food sources; spread repellant of chopped bay leaves & cucumber skins.
Slug bait (metaldelyde, e.g. Bug-Geta)	T US	Trap in shallow containers of stale beer; use iron phosphate (Sluggo) or diatomaceous earth (do NOT inhale)
House Cleaners/Maintenance/Hobbies		
Aerosols (no longer contain CFCs)	F U	Roll-ons, pump-sprays, shaving soap; baking powder to freshen air; spray old aerosols into cardboard box, air dry, discard box
Arts & crafts supplies (variable ingredients)	T CIF US	Buy water-based, non-toxic products, esp. for children
Bleach (hydrogen peroxide; sodium or calcium hypochlorite) Never mix with ammonia!	TC U	For laundry use dry bleach, hydrogen peroxide liquids or ½ cup white vinegar, baking soda, or borax per load
Disinfectants (sodium hypochlorite, phenol, diethylene or methylene glycol)	T CI U	½ cup borax in 1 gallon of water
Drain opener/cleaner (potassium or sodium hydroxide, sodium hypochlorite, hydrochloric acid, petroleum distillates)	T CI US	Plunger or snake; flush with boiling water; use enzyme-based cleaners like "Drain Care"; try ¼ cup baking soda + 2 ounces vinegar or ½ cup borax + 2 cups boiling water
Furniture and floor polish (diethylene glycol, petroleum distillates, nitrobenzene)	TF S	1 part lemon juice: 2 parts vegetable oil; soapy (e.g. Murphy's) water and soft cloth
Glass/window cleaner (ammonia)	TI UP	1 part vinegar + 8 parts water or 2 T. lemon juice + 1qt water
Metal cleaners/polishes (acidified thionrea, sulfuric acid, petroleum products)	TF S	Soak stainless/silver in hot water + baking soda + aluminum foil piece (Al ions). Clean copper and brass with vinegar/salt mix
Oven cleaners (ammonia, potassium or sodium hydroxide)	TC UP	Leave 1 cup vinegar in oven overnight; scrub with baking soda/water paste; rub resistant spots with ultra-fine steel wool
Photographic chemicals (silver, acetic acid, hydroquinone, sodium sulfite, ferrocyanide)	TC US	Buy only what is needed; dilute by adding chemical to water, never the other way around
Pool chemicals (hydrochloric [muriatic] acid, sodium hypochlorite, algicide)	T CI US	Ozone or UV light systems
Rug/upholstery/spot cleaners (naphthalene, oxalic acid, perchloroethylene, diethylene glycol)	TF S	Sprinkle cornstarch/baking soda; vacuum after 30 minutes
Shoe polish (dyes, methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, nitrobenzene)	T S	Spot clean with club soda; wash (do not dry clean) fabrics Olive or walnut oil; beeswax; buff with clean cloth
Surface cleaners/abrasives (ammonia, ethanol, trisodiumphosphate)	TC U	Rub with baking soda/mild detergent or ½ lemon dipped in borax, rinse; 2 T trisodium phosphate/1 gal. water for tiles
Toilet cleaners (hydrochloric or oxalic acid, calcium hypochlorite, paradichlorobenzene)	TC S	Toilet brush + baking soda with detergent; add ½ cup liquid bleach for severe staining; avoid solid deodorizers

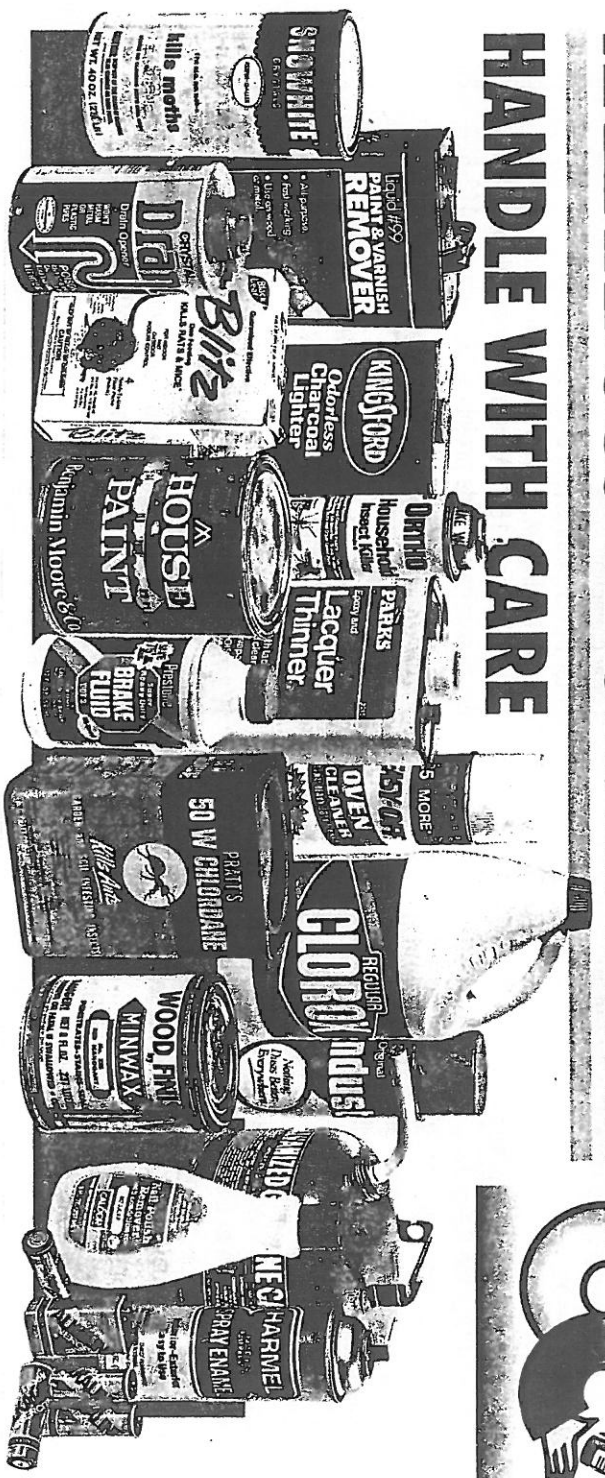
Automotive, Paint, Solvents, Miscellany			
Antifreeze (ethylene glycol, propylene glycol)	T	SS	None; seek safest brands, e.g. Prestone "LowTox"
Batteries (sulfuric acid, lead, cadmium)	TC	SS	Substitute re-chargeables for household batteries
Fuels – gasoline, diesel, kerosene (hydrocarbons, mineral oils, glycol ethers, heavy metals)	TCF	SS	(Radio Shack stores accept discarded household batteries) Store in approved safety cans; have all fluids serviced at a licensed station
Furniture strippers (acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, alcohol, xylene, toluene, methyl chloride)	TFCar	SA	Sandpaper or heat gun (but NOT on lead-based paints); water-soluble paint strippers
Medicines	T	UP	Secure from children; use up or discard promptly
Mercury switches/thermometers/fluorescents (mercury, metals)	T	S	Use non-mercury thermometers (digital, electronic); call munic. office for disposal recomm.; take old mercury thermoms. to Clack Health Bldg.#7, 39 th St. & Penn Av. M-F 9 AM - 4 PM
Oil, motor – used (hydrocarbons, heavy metals)	TF	SS	None; never pour on ground or into storm drains; recycle
Paint:			
enamel – oil based (pigments, ethylene, hydrocarbons, mineral spirits)	TF	S	Latex paint, limestone-based white wash; casein-based paint
latex – waterbased (resins, glycol ethers, esters, pigments, phenyl mercric acetate, pigments)	T	S	Limestone-based white wash; casein-based paint
Paint thinner/turpentine (n-butyl alcohol, acetone, methyl isobutyl ketone, petroleum distillates)	TF	USA	Water with latex paint. Keep thinners in tightly closed containers to settle; strain and re-use
Rust preventing paint (methylene chloride, petroleum distillates, toluene)	TFCar	S	None; use only when necessary
Wood preservatives (pentachlorophenol [PCP], copper or zinc naphthenate, creosote et al.)	TF	S	Rot-resistant wood or plastic; coat wood with water-based sealants or polyurethane
Wood – pressure treated [wolmanized] (copper chromated arsenate - to be phased out in 2004)	T	U	Rot-resistant wood or plastic; coat with sealant; dispose in trash; never burn or use for food prep. surfaces; wash hands
Wood stains/finishes (mineral spirits, glycol ethers, ketones, hydrocarbons, naphtha)	TF	S	Latex paint or natural earth pigment finishes; water-based stains

***Legend:** T = toxic F = flammable C = corrosive I = irritant Car = carcinogen (cancer-inducer)

- A = air dry or absorb with shredded newspaper or kitty litter; discard in trash.
- P = pour small amounts into house drain; dilute with running water (NOT recommended for septic systems).
- S = store unused product for community hazardous waste collection.
- SS = return to service station for storage, re-use, or recycling.
- U = use up product or share with neighbor; discard clean, empty container in trash.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AT HOME

HANDLE WITH CARE





DON'T DUMP... DONATE AND RECYCLE

Here is a list of hard-to-recycle items, which includes everything from batteries to boats. Unless noted otherwise, you must drop off the materials at the recycling location. Many items donated for re-sale are tax deductible, so ask for a receipt.



Printer cartridges and cell phones

Forest Hills Borough Office

2071 Ardmore Boulevard • 412-351-7330

Inkjet and laser cartridges are sent back to manufacturer to be recycled. Cell phones are reconditioned and used to help victims of domestic violence. Proceeds benefit recycling projects in Forest Hills.

Batteries: Disposable, Rechargeable

Radio Shack

Forest Hills Plaza • 412-351-5160

Penn Hills Shopping Center • 412-241-5373

CDs, Videotapes, Alkaline Batteries

E House Company

1511 E. Carson Street, South Side • 412-488-7455

Car batteries, oil and oil filters

Tyke's Gulf Station

Greensburg Pike • 412-243-2432

Building materials in good condition for re-sale

Cabinets, lumber, windows, tile, shingles, siding, lighting, lighting fixtures, plumbing supplies, doors, latex paint

Construction Junction

Lexington and Meade, Point Breeze • 412-243-5025

Computers

Goodwill Computers

East Carson Street, South Side • 412-481-0922

Will take Pentium 100 or above or Mac G3 or above.

Dell (www.dell4me.com/recycling)

IBM (1-888-SHOP-IBM and ask for part number 06P7513)

Both have buy-back recycling programs for any manufacturer's PCs.

All Electronics

Old computers, printers, FAX machines, radios, TVs, telephones

Hi Tech Scrap

Construction Junction Bldg., Lexington and Meade,

Point Breeze • 412-731-5085

Magazines

Squirrel Hill branch of Carnegie Library

Corner of Forbes and Murray • 412-422-9650

Donate for re-sale

Paper, Plastic, Metal, Glass

Agents of Change Recycling

All paper/cardboard; plastic, glass, cans

Route 8, next to Glenshaw Glass • 412-487-5885

Saturdays 9 AM – 4 PM. Call to verify date/time.

Will pick up for a fee.

Monroeville Senior Center

Newspaper, magazines, catalogs

Haymaker Rd; enter Gateway H.S. complex, left at

STOP, pass Library to St. Center, bins in rear.

Churchill Area Volunteer Recycling Center

Glass, aluminum and steel cans

Greensburg Pike behind WHSD Admin. Bldg.

1st Sunday each month, 10 AM – 1PM

Styrofoam Packing, "Peanuts"

The UPS Store (formerly Mail Boxes)

322 Mall Blvd. • 412-856-9818 (reuses these items)

Telephone books

Forest Hills Recreation Area

Annual collection at pool parking lot, mid-November to mid-December. Exact dates to be announced. Eastern area collection site sponsored by the Allegheny County Department of Health, Recycling Program • 412-578-8047

Propane tanks

Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-Mart

Rhino Exchange Program. Get credit towards new purchase.

Tires

Import-Export, NTB or Monroeville Tire Center

All charge \$2 per tire

Large appliances and scrap metal

Josh Steel Company

Sixth Street, Braddock • 412-351-3500

No refrigerators or freezers

Cars and trucks

Goodwill Industries • 1-888-3040-CAR www.goodwillpitt.org

Kidney Foundation • 1-800-488-CARS www.kidneycars.org

American Lung Association • 1-800-LUNG-USA

www.donateyourcar.com

All charities tow vehicles free of charge. Goodwill also takes motorcycles, boats, RVs and lawn tractors

Household items

Small appliances, housewares, books, clothing, furniture in good condition for re-sale

Goodwill Industries

All locations • 412-481-9005

Mercury thermometers

Glack Health Center

Building 7, 39th and Penn, Lawrenceville

Weekdays only

Eyeglasses

Forest Hills Lion's Club

Local collection sites:

Peter Paul Haircutters, Forest Hills Plaza

Arthur Fleming, M.D., 1801 Ardmore

Optical Options, 1501 Ardmore, second floor

For humanitarian aide project in Guatemala • 412-829-7888

Prom dresses and accessories

Prom Project

Annual collection takes place in April

For more information, www.county.allegheny.pa.us/dhs/project/prom.html

Women's business clothing and accessories

Dress For Success

Contact dspittsburgh@yahoo.com for area drop-off sites

Must be suitable for interviews and office work