

UNDERSTANDING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

HHW: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT'S NOT

Products used in and around your home that contain chemicals have the potential to harm you, your loved ones, and our environment. These are commonly referred to as household hazardous waste (HHW). Even after you throw these items away, they are still considered dangerous.

HHW IS:

- Chemical products that can be harmful.
- Commonly found in your home, from cleaning products, arts and crafts, lawn care to car maintenance.
- Can be ignitable (easily catch fire), corrosive (a strong acid or base that can eat through things), reactive: (unstable and could explode or react violently), Toxic (poisonous or harmful if ingested or absorbed).
- Requires special handling when you throw it away.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMETHING IS HHW?

- Look for warning words on the label like "Caution," "Warning," or "Danger."
- Think about its purpose. Was it used for home improvement, gardening, or cleaning?
- Check for these common examples: paint, batteries, used oil, and cleaning products.

HHW IS NOT:

- Something that should be poured down the drain or into the sewage systems.
- Regular trash that should be thrown in the garbage.
- Harmless to you, your kids, or pets if carelessly left open around your house.
- Something that should be mixed with other products.
- Something to be stored in a container other than its original packaging.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Store materials safely in their original containers with labels.
- Don't mix different products together.
- Store them safely away from children and pets.
- Take them to a designated collection event or recycle facility.

MORE INFORMATION

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