

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW)

HHW collection programs are available to residents of many NH communities. Generally, collection programs are offered once or twice a year, free of charge, to residents of participating towns. By safely storing your hazardous wastes, and bringing them to your local collection site, you are making sure your wastes are transported and disposed of by licensed facilities and in a manner to prevent or minimize environmental pollution.

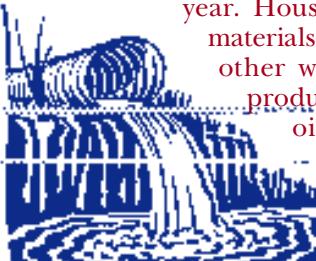
Some towns are now establishing permanent HHW collection facilities. These facilities are usually open on a weekly basis where operators will store and consolidate wastes prior to transport to disposal sites.

For information on your town's next collection day, or to find the nearest HHW collection center, call your town offices or the **NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) at 271-2900 or 271-2047** or visit our household hazardous waste web site at:

[www.des.state.nh.us/hhw](http://www.des.state.nh.us/hhw)

## Should I be Concerned?

The average household throws 15.5 pounds of hazardous materials into the trash each year. Household hazardous materials are disposed of in other ways, too. Certain products, such as used oil, are sometimes poured down storm drains and many products end up going down the sink drain to septic systems or sewers.



Flammable or reactive household chemicals can release toxic fumes or even explode if they are mixed together in the trash, causing fires or injuries. Dumping solvents into septic systems or landfills may contaminate ground and surface waters, ruining drinking water and killing fish and wildlife. Pesticides can damage sewage treatment plants, and oil poured into storm drains can flow directly into streams and ponds.

Don't let these things happen in your community. Be a good neighbor.

## BUY WISELY

READ the label. Look for "nontoxic" on the label and compare products.

BUY nontoxic alternatives (see list of safer substitutes). Many times, a general household cleaner is just as effective as a specialized product.

BUY only the quantity you need to limit the disposal of the unused portion.

BUY products in child-proof packaging.

BUY non-aerosol products. Aerosols produce a fine mist which, when inhaled, can settle deep in the lungs and pass into the bloodstream.

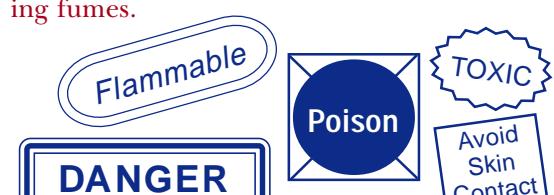
## USE CAREFULLY

READ the label carefully before use and *follow directions*.

USE only the recommended amount.

NEVER mix products.

USE in well ventilated rooms and avoid breathing fumes.



## DISPOSE OF SAFELY

USE all the product so there's no disposal!

SHARE what you can not use with a friend or take it to a swap center if available.

RECYCLE waste when possible; many towns now accept used oil for recycling.

DONATE usable products, such as paint, to local service organizations.

DO NOT burn, bury, pour on ground, pour down drain, or discard hazardous waste in trash.

STORE and label wastes safely, then bring them to a local household hazardous waste day collection.

# HAZARDOUS

# MATERIALS

*in your*

## HOME



**USE THIS GUIDE  
to learn how to properly  
use, store and dispose of  
hazardous products  
to protect the environment,  
your health and your home.**

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## WHAT ARE Hazardous Household Materials?

Look in any storage cabinet in your home. Do you see products such as paint thinner, spot remover, oven cleaner, furniture polish, drain opener, pool chemicals and hair spray? These products are hazardous because they contain chemicals that are **corrosive, explosive, reactive, flammable or toxic**.

When you look at these products you might immediately recognize hazardous products by their name. When you see words like pesticide, acid, fungicide, caustic, herbicide, or solvent, you know they are hazardous. But, sometimes the name may not tell you anything about the product. Read the label, especially the instructions, carefully.

Unfortunately, the absence of these words does not guarantee the product is without hazards. For example, methyl alcohol (found in some glass cleaners) can cause blindness if ingested, but may not require a warning if it makes up less than 4% of a product. Additionally, health effects from long term exposure may not even be considered in the labeling requirements.



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DO NOT burn, bury, pour on ground, pour down drain, or discard hazardous waste in trash.

STORE and label wastes safely, then bring them to a local household hazardous waste day collection.

# The Household Audit

Go through your home, room-by-room, checking for hazardous materials. Use this checklist as a guide. You might be surprised to find out how many hazardous materials you've surrounded yourself with! To run this audit, wear old clothing or coveralls, use a clipboard, and be careful; don't let a home audit become a hazardous waste spill! When you find these materials make sure they are stored properly to protect your family.

	number of items?	safely stored?		number of items?	safely stored?
<b>LIVING ROOM</b>					
furniture polish	_____	_____	LAWN & GARDEN	_____	_____
spot remover	_____	_____	weed killers	_____	_____
<b>BATHROOM</b>					
nail polish remover	_____	_____	insecticides	_____	_____
toilet bowl cleaner	_____	_____	bug repellent	_____	_____
aerosol spray	_____	_____	flea spray/collars	_____	_____
hair coloring	_____	_____	fertilizers	_____	_____
<b>WORK BENCH</b>					
paint	_____	_____	AUTOMOTIVE	_____	_____
furniture stripper	_____	_____	motor oil	_____	_____
paint thinner	_____	_____	gasoline	_____	_____
spray lubricant	_____	_____	degreaser	_____	_____
rust remover	_____	_____	carburetor spray	_____	_____
varnish	_____	_____	antifreeze	_____	_____
<b>KITCHEN/BATHROOM</b>					
drain cleaner	_____	_____	kerosene	_____	_____
oven cleaner	_____	_____	OTHER PRODUCTS	_____	_____
floor cleaner	_____	_____	mildew remover	_____	_____
disinfectant	_____	_____	pool chemicals	_____	_____
ammonia	_____	_____	metal cleaner	_____	_____
bleach	_____	_____	mothballs	_____	_____

MOST HOMEOWNERS ARE SURPRISED to learn how many hazardous materials there are in their homes. Unfortunately, many of these materials find their way into the garbage pail. The ultimate solution to this problem is generally recognized to be waste reduction (Pollution Prevention). Take a look at the Pollution Prevention and Alternate Household Products sections of this brochure. When you have to buy new household products, remember that by purchasing less harmful products, and using products wisely, you play an important role in protecting and improving the environment.

## STORE PRODUCTS

**A** BUY childproof packaging; store products in locked cabinet.

**F** CLOSE lids tightly so products will not dry out, evaporate or leak.

**E** STORE in cool, dry area away from sources of heat, spark or flame.

**L** STORE in original container with label intact.

**Y** SEPARATE flammables, corrosives, and poisons; store on separate shelves.

IF container is deteriorating, place entire container in sealable glass or plastic container, surrounded with non-flammable absorbent such as cat litter or vermiculite and place a new label on it.

# Pollution prevention

Pollution Prevention, or Source Reduction, is a better way to address harmful wastes. Just as preventive medicine seeks to avoid expensive medical treatment by *not getting sick in the first place*, pollution prevention seeks to reduce or eliminate waste *before it is created*.

How can you do that? By examining the products and processes that lead to the creation of wastes and changing the products or the way they are used.

For example, how can you make less waste washing your car? First, by not washing as often or by using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you do wash, how about using less water? Can you use less water by using an auto shut-off nozzle? What about the cleaner? Can you cut back on the amount of cleaner and still wash effectively? Finally, look at the cleaner's ingredients. Can you find a non-toxic or less-toxic substitute?

These same questions may be applied to all the household jobs that use hazardous materials and create hazardous waste. Remember, look at *how* you use products as well as *what* you use.

## ALTERNATIVE HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Part of pollution prevention is "product substitution," that is, using a less toxic or non-toxic product to create a less toxic or non-toxic waste. The following is a partial list of substitutions you may consider to replace some of the toxic products you may presently be using. For more ideas, call the NH Department of Environmental Services.

### AIR FRESHENER

Simmer cloves and cinnamon in boiling water. Leave opened box of baking soda in room. Set out a dish of vinegar.

### ANT CONTROL

Mix 2 Tbls. boric acid, 2 Tbls. sugar and 1 cup water. Soak paper towels, place on dishes, set out for ants.

Pour a line of cream of tartar where ants enter.

### CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANER

Clean stains immediately with club soda. Sprinkle cornstarch on rug and vacuum. Use soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo.

### CHROME CLEANER

Use baking soda and a dry cloth.

### DRAIN OPENER

Use a plunger or mechanical snake.

### FLEA & TICK REPELLENT

Scatter pine needles, fennel, rue or rosemary on pet's bed.

Feed pet brewer's yeast, vitamin B or garlic tablets.

### FURNITURE POLISH

Mix 2 parts vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Apply, rub in, wipe clean.

### INSECT SPRAY FOR PLANTS

Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 Tbls. dried hot pepper and 1 Tbls. pure soap in 1 gallon hot water. Let sit 1 to 2 days; strain and use.

### LAUNDRY PRESOAK

Make paste of washing soda and water; apply to dirty spots.

### METAL CLEANER

Make paste of salt, vinegar and flour. Start with  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cup of salt, add enough vinegar to dissolve, add flour to create a damp paste.

### MOTHBALLS

Sew dried lavender or cedar chips into small cloth bags and place with clothes.

### MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER

Mix  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cup ammonia,  $1\frac{1}{3}$  cup vinegar and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.

### PORCELAIN CLEANER

Make paste from baking soda and water; apply to stain, let set, rub clean, rinse.

### SEPTIC SYSTEM CLEANER

Use professional service every 2 to 3 years. Chemical treatments don't work; some can actually harm your system.

### SILVER POLISH

Soak silver in 1 quart warm water containing 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt and a piece of aluminum foil.

### WINDOW CLEANER

Use  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cup vinegar in 1 gallon of warm water. Use lemon juice and dry soft cloth. Use newspaper to dry glass.