

WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Leftover portions of many common household products that contain hazardous components become household hazardous waste. These products if handled improperly can be dangerous to human health and the environment.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT IS HAZARDOUS?

Federal law requires manufacturers to list signal words on hazardous products. Following is a list of these signal words and what they indicate.

DANGER or POISON

Indicates that the product is highly toxic, corrosive, or extremely flammable.

WARNING OR CAUTION

Indicates that the product is moderately or slightly toxic.

Hazardous product labels often list the principal hazards from using the product – always read the product label carefully.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS I MAY HAVE IN MY HOME?

Following is a list of some common household hazardous products.

Household Cleaning Products:

- Bleach based products
- Ammonia based products
- Disinfectants
- Furniture polish & wax
- Drain opener
- Oven cleaner
- Spot remover
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Deodorizers
- Tub & Tile Cleaner
- Window Cleaners

Personal Care Products:

- Aftershaves & Perfumes
- Hair Permanent
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Cosmetics
- Shoe Polish
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Home Improvement Products:

- Paint
- Varnish
- Stain
- Paint Thinner
- Paint Stripper
- Caulking
- Adhesives
- Wood Preservatives

Pesticides:

- Insecticide
- Insect Repellent
- Weed Killer
- Rodent Poison
- Flea dip, sprays, and collars
- Fertilizer (with pesticide added)
- Fungus-Control Products
- Moth Balls

Automotive Products:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Brake Fluid
- Car Wax & Polish
- Degreaser
- Diesel Fuel
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Motor Oil
- Transmission Fluid
- Windshield Wiper Fluid

Miscellaneous Products:

- Artist & Hobby Paint
- Household Batteries
- Fabric Dye
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Smoke Detector
- Thermometer

WHAT CAN I DO TO ENSURE MY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS DO NOT HARM MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, COMMUNITY, AND ENVIRONMENT?

- Avoid buying products with labels containing words like flammable, corrosive, toxic, poison, or reactive.
- Purchase household products only in the amount needed for the task.

- Store flammables, corrosives, and poisons separately
- Follow any instructions for disposal and use provided on the label.
- Use safety equipment when the label recommends avoiding skin contact, eye contact, or inhalation of vapors.
- Store all cleaners, poisons, solvents, and other hazardous products outside the house. Inside today's modern "tight" homes, small amounts of hazardous vapors can have ill effects on the inhabitants.
- Use products up entirely (it is not hazardous waste until no longer, wanted or usable)
- Share what you cannot use with a friend, neighbor, local business, or organization (local nurseries may take excess pesticides).
- Recycle what can be recycled (the Stevenson Transfer site recycles waste motor oil, used transmission fluid, and antifreeze).
- Store away from sources of heat, spark, or flame.
- Safely store the remaining, unusable products in their original containers for the household hazardous waste collection event.

HOW CAN I STORE THESE TYPES OF PRODUCTS SAFELY?

- Always store hazardous products in a locked cabinet away from children and animals.
- Store product in original container with label intact.

- Store product in cool dry area away from sources of heat, spark, and flame.
- Be sure lids are closed tightly so that the products won't dry out, evaporate or leak.
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- Store flammables, corrosives, and poisons separately
- Store products whose container is deteriorating inside another container (plastic bucket or glass jar) with a tight fitting lid. Be sure to surround it with a non-flammable absorbent for spills; kitty liter and vermiculite work well.

WHERE CAN I FIND ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS?

There are many websites listing alternative cleaning products that are less hazardous and recipes using common household product. Some of these websites are www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw and www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/alternatives/

**SKAMANIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE
DIVISION HOLDS AN ANNUAL
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION EVENT IN JULY**