

**HERE'S  
TO YOUR  
HEALTH!**

# Household Hazardous Waste



## **Safety Tip:**

*Keep products in their original containers. It is very dangerous to put products in food and beverage containers. Children think that something in a familiar juice or soda bottle is good to drink. Also, it will be easier to dispose of products in their original container.*



## **Safety Tip:**

*NEVER put aerosol cans into the trash unless they are completely empty. While outdoors or in a well-ventilated area, spray the entire contents of the aerosol can into a large cardboard box or large, flat cardboard surface. Be careful not to inhale the fumes. Let the cardboard dry and then put the cardboard and the empty aerosol can in the trash.*

**M**any of the chemicals you use around the house can harm you, your family and the environment. When these chemicals are not completely used up, they are called household hazardous waste. If you do not get rid of household hazardous waste correctly, it can harm sanitation workers and water supplies, as well as cause problems in sewage treatment plants and landfills.

## **Commonly used products that may be hazardous:**

### Automotive Products

- Antifreeze
- Used oil and oil filters
- Automotive batteries
- Gasoline, Diesel and unwanted fuels
- Solvents, degreasers, transmission fluid, fuel additives

### Paints, solvents and woodworking supplies

- Latex and oil based paints
- Stains and finishes
- Paint thinners and strippers

### Lawn and Garden Chemicals

- Fertilizer
- Insecticides, pesticides
- Fungicides

### Household Cleaners

- Polishes and cleaners
- Drain openers
- Pool Chemicals

## **To safely store, use, and reduce household hazardous waste:**

- Read the label FIRST.

The label tells you how to use, store and dispose of the product safely and effectively.



- Buy the right product for the job. Avoid products labeled “Danger” or “Poison.” Products labeled “Warning” or “Caution” are less hazardous.
- Buy the right amount for your needs. Not only will you save money and minimize the risk of accidental poisoning, you will also reduce the amount of your household hazardous waste.
- Never mix household chemicals such as cleaners. The mixture might be toxic or produce poisonous gas.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste carefully. The best way to keep household products from becoming hazardous waste is to use up chemicals for their intended purpose. Please see information on other side to safely dispose of chemicals.



**Tri-County  
Health  
Department**

Eleven offices along the front range serving the residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties  
Administration Office: 7000 East Belleview Avenue, Suite 301 • Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111  
Telephone: 303-220-9200 • Fax: 303-220-9208  
Website: [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org)

# Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household hazardous waste should not be disposed of with regular household garbage, down the drain, into storm water drains, or on the ground. The best way to dispose of household chemicals is to bring them to your county or city household hazardous waste collection program. Call your local government to ask about your community program.

Some things like used motor oil, automotive and rechargeable batteries, electronics and computer waste can be recycled at local businesses. Check with the business where you bought the product – or other retailers with similar products – to see if they will take the waste or recommend a local recycling center.

There are some do-it-yourself methods that allow some products to be put in the trash or poured down the drain into a sewer system. It is important to follow these instructions carefully to protect your safety as well as the safety of your family, pets and the environment. These methods should only be used as a last resort when disposing of household hazardous wastes.



### **Safety Tip:**

*To dispose of a small amount (less than one pint) of paint products, use this safe method. Pour kitty litter, sand or dirt into the can of paint. Stir with a stick or scrap lumber and let it dry. After the product dries to a solid, put the can in the trash with the lid off. Put dried brushes and rollers in the trash too.*

Small amounts of household cleaners and other chemicals that are normally used with water can be disposed of by the “dilute and flush” method.

### **Safety rules for “dilute and flush”**

- Never use this method if you have an individual sewage disposal system (septic tank).
- Never pour chemicals into a storm drain.
- **Never mix chemicals!**

### **Dilute and flush method:**

- Make sure the room you will be working in is well-ventilated. Open all windows and avoid inhaling fumes.
- Pour about one cup of the chemical into the toilet and flush. Repeat until all of the chemical is gone. OR turn the sink faucet on all the way. Slowly pour the chemical down the drain. Keep water running until you are finished rinsing the container.
- Rinse the container the chemical was in. Fill the container with water and then pour into the sink (with water still running or into the toilet and flush). Repeat twice more and then throw the container away.

**The average American household generates about 20 pounds of household hazardous waste each year. Across Colorado, this equates to over 33,000,000 pounds (16,500 tons) of household hazardous waste being discarded every year.**

## **For more information, contact:**

- Tri-County Health Department Household Chemical Information Hotline 303-846-6249.
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. Hazardous Materials Assistance Line: 303-692-3320
- Colorado Recycles: [www.colorado-recycles.org](http://www.colorado-recycles.org)
- Earth 911: 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687) or [www.1800cleanup.com](http://www.1800cleanup.com)
- Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp. 1-800-8-BATTERY (1-800-822-8837)