

# Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

## How to identify and properly dispose of HHW

Many products used to paint, clean, and maintain our homes, gardens and yards contain chemicals that may be toxic to human health and the environment when disposed of improperly.



## RecycleSmart

### What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is products used in and around your home that have one or more of the following characteristics: **Corrosivity; Toxicity; Flammability; Reactivity.** Read the label to determine which products require special handling. Warnings such as "poisonous or toxic", "flammable or ignitable", or "corrosive" are indicators that the items should be disposed of as HHW. Cleaners that contain strong acids, bleach or ammonia are also hazardous.

Paint and paint products that are oil-based and require the use of paint thinner or mineral spirits are considered hazardous and should be disposed through the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste program. Water-based paints are not considered hazardous and can be prepared for safe disposal with household trash. To prepare latex paint for disposal with household garbage, mix paint with an absorbent such as cat litter, sawdust or a commercial paint hardener. Once the paint is solidified, place it in a trash bag and dispose with your household garbage. Water-based paint, in liquid form, is accepted at the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste events. Usable liquid water-based paint will get recycled through the hazardous waste vendor. ***Please dispose of empty paint cans with your regular household garbage.***

### What to Do With Unwanted HHW

HHW requires special handling and disposal through licensed hazardous waste companies. Residents are encouraged to bring HHW to a special drop-off event, sponsored by Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart. The reverse side of this flyer lists the dates of HHW collection events.

### What Happens to HHW?

What happens to the hazardous waste after items are dropped off at a collection event depends on the type of material. Items such as fluorescent bulbs, batteries, oil, antifreeze and latex paint are recycled. Flammable liquids and oil based paints are used for energy recovery. While some other items are stabilized (acids, bases, caustic products) or destructively incinerated, few items are disposed in hazardous waste landfills.

### Benefits of Proper HHW Management

Disposing of your HHW at special collection events or HHW facility benefits you, the community and the environment by:

- Keeping toxic chemicals out of landfills
- Reducing the potential for groundwater contamination
- Preventing pollution on our streets from garbage trucks
- Eliminating exposure to toxics for sanitation workers
- Protecting local bodies of water from contamination
- Reducing the incidence of household chemical poisoning of children and pets



Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart

www.recyclesmart.info | Hotline: 231-941-5555

## RecycleSmart

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## Transporting Household Hazardous Waste

- Keep items in their original and labeled containers.
- Do not mix the contents of unknown or unlabeled containers.
- Make sure that the containers are not leaking prior to bringing them to a collection event.
- Do not transport containers with open lids.
- Place chemicals away from passengers.
- Secure all containers so they cannot slide, tip or spill contents.

## Listed below are examples of accepted HHW

### Kitchen/Bathroom

- Expired or unused medicines
- Drain cleaners
- Mercury thermometers
- Aerosol cans
- Bleach, ammonia
- Nail polish
- Metal polish with solvent

### Miscellaneous

- Batteries (all types)
- Mercury
- Moth balls
- All propane tanks
- Acids
- Pool chemicals
- Fiberglass epoxy
- Lighter fluid
- Photo chemicals

### Garden

- Pesticides, herbicides
- Fungicides, insecticides
- Weed and feed
- Deck wash and stains

### Garage

- Used oil, anti-freeze
- Brake, transmission fluids
- Gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, fuel oil
- Car batteries, battery acid

### Workshop

- Fluorescent and CFL bulbs
- Glue-solvent based
- Oil-based paint and primer
- Solvents, paint thinner
- Turpentine
- Varnish and wood stain
- Wood preservatives

## NOT ACCEPTED at HHW Events:

x Tires x Electronics x Ammunition x Empty Cans

## Not sure what to do with stuff?

Learn where and how to reuse, recycle, compost or properly dispose of just about anything with the **RecycleSmart Take It Back Recycling Directory** at [recyclesmart.info](http://recyclesmart.info)

## RecycleSmart

**For Health's Sake:  
Dispose of HHW at a RecycleSmart  
Special Collection Event**

### 2024 Events

Thursday, April 11th 1-6pm  
Thursday, May 16th 1-6pm  
Thursday, June 20th 1-6pm  
Thursday, August 8th 1-6pm

**Saturday, September 14th**  
9 am - 2 pm

**Appointments are REQUIRED!**

Make appointments online at  
**[recyclesmart.info](http://recyclesmart.info)**

If you are unable to use a the  
Internet, please call **231-995-6075**

A \$1.30/pound fee will be charged  
for quantities greater than 150  
pounds.

Tip: a full gallon can of paint/HHW weighs  
approximately 8 pounds.

**Business/Organization Hazardous Waste**  
(Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators)

Visit **[recyclesmart.info](http://recyclesmart.info)** or call **231-941-5555**  
to determine if you are CESQG.

**- Pre-registration is REQUIRED**

- A \$1.30/pound fee will be charged for  
quantities greater than 150 pounds.

**Open to residents of  
Grand Traverse County**

Pesticides only are accepted from out-of-county  
residents, agri-businesses, and farms without fee  
through the Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Clean Sweep program.

Questions? Call RecycleSmart 231-941-5555

Sign Up for Event Notification & News at  
**[www.recyclesmart.info](http://www.recyclesmart.info)**  
go to newsletter page

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**RecycleSmart**