

➔ REDUCTION IS THE FIRST CHOICE

Reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home by following these easy steps.

Before you buy

- Research nonhazardous alternatives.
- Take an inventory of what you have to avoid purchasing duplicate items.
- Read the labels and be aware of what they mean.
- Select a product best suited for the job.
- Buy only what you can use entirely.
- Look for these words on labels; they tell you what products may need special handling or disposal:

Caution	Flammable
Warning	Combustible
Danger	Reactive
Explosive	Poison
Volatile	Toxic
Corrosive	Hazardous

U.S. EPA Safer Choice Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice Program helps consumers find products that are safe for human health and the environment.

Visit epa.gov and search "**safer choice**" for a filterable list of certified products.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Wisconsin Clean Sweep Program

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection administers the Clean Sweep Grant program that assists local governments with collection and proper disposal of agricultural and residential hazardous waste. These collections may also accept unwanted prescription drugs.

Call or check online for dates, times and locations or to learn what materials each event will accept and how you can safely transport items for collection. For a list of participating local governments, visit cleansweep.wi.gov.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CONSULT YOUR STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIALS

If you are unsure about whether any part of your waste is hazardous waste or about how to store or dispose of something safely, keep it out of the trash and contact a hazardous waste specialist.

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search "**household hazardous waste.**"



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HOUSEHOLD Hazardous Waste Management Guide



Household hazardous waste is any waste product found in your home, yard or garage that can cause substantial harm to human health or the environment when improperly managed. This guide helps residents to identify, reduce and safely dispose of household hazardous waste.

SAFE DISPOSAL: KNOW WHICH OPTION IS THE SAFEST

If you have leftover household products, check labels and the tables to the right for disposal options. The key to safe disposal is knowing which option is right for each household hazardous waste item.

Using up products for their intended purpose is often the simplest solution, otherwise:



PITCH IT:

DRY WASTE UNTIL IT IS SOLID AND PITCH IT IN THE TRASH

Some household hazardous wastes can be dried or mixed with cat litter until they are solid and placed in the trash.



POUR IT:

FLUSH CLEANERS WITH LOTS OF WATER WHEN POURING THEM DOWN THE DRAIN

Some household cleaners can be poured into household drains as this is their intended purpose. Be sure they are flushed thoroughly with water. **NEVER POUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IN A SEPTIC SYSTEM OR STORM DRAIN.**



TAKE IT:

FIND A COLLECTION PROGRAM AND STORE WASTE SAFELY UNTIL COLLECTION

Safe storage is key to safe disposal. Keeping products in their original container helps household hazardous waste facilities know what they are handling. Most items should be kept sealed and away from heat. Use the child-resistant lids and caps and keep containers closed tight.

The recommendations described here may not apply to every product in the category. Be sure to read labels and look online for storage and disposal options.



CAR CARE	
Antifreeze	TAKE IT
Batteries (automotive) ¹	TAKE IT
Brake fluid	TAKE IT
Carburetor cleaner	TAKE IT
Degreasers	TAKE IT
Gasoline and fuels	TAKE IT
Used motor oil ¹ and oil filters ¹	TAKE IT
Transmission fluid	TAKE IT
Windshield washer	POUR IT

¹ These items are banned from Wisconsin landfills and may not be thrown in the trash.



CLEANERS	
Cleaners with ammonia ²	POUR IT
Cleaners with bleach ²	POUR IT
Concrete cleaners (acid)	TAKE IT
Disinfectants	POUR IT
Drain cleaner ³	POUR IT
Metal cleaners	TAKE IT
Oven cleaners ³	PITCH IT/TAKE IT
Polish/spot removers ³	PITCH IT/TAKE IT
Polish with solvents ⁴	TAKE IT
Pool chemicals	TAKE IT
Toilet/tub/tile cleaner ³	PITCH IT/TAKE IT

² Never mix products containing ammonia with those containing bleach as it can cause a harmful chemical reaction.

³ Read labels for storage and collection instructions.

⁴ Solvent-containing products have the words "flammable," "combustible" or "contains petroleum distillate" on the labels.

EXPLOSIVES	
Ammunition	TAKE IT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
Fireworks/flares	SOAK IN WATER AND TAKE IT

MEDICAL WASTE	
Pharmaceuticals, prescription drugs and medical sharps	TAKE IT
	Visit dnr.wi.gov and search "health care waste" for instructions.

PAINTS, STAINS AND HOMEWARES	
Adhesives/glues, waster-based	PITCH IT
Adhesives/glues with solvents ⁴	TAKE IT
Caulk, grout, putty, spackle	PITCH IT
Floor/wax stripper	TAKE IT
Furniture stripper	TAKE IT
Paint, latex-based	PITCH IT
Paint, oil-based	TAKE IT
Paint, remover/thinner	TAKE IT
Sealers	TAKE IT
Stain, varnish, lacquer	TAKE IT
Turpentine	TAKE IT
Wood preservatives	TAKE IT

PESTICIDES AND POISONS	
Fertilizer with weed killer	TAKE IT
Insect/bug killer	TAKE IT
Mothballs	TAKE IT
Rat/rodent poison	TAKE IT
Weed killer	TAKE IT

PRESSURIZED CONTAINERS	
Weed killer	TAKE IT
Propane tanks (refillable)	TAKE IT
Propane tanks (single use)	TAKE IT

OTHER COMMON ITEMS	
Emptied hazardous waste containers	PITCH IT
Fertilizer without weed killer	PITCH IT
Lighter fluid	TAKE IT
Smoke detectors	PITCH IT
Thermometers containing mercury	TAKE IT

FOR ITEMS NOT ON LIST, VISIT DNR.WI.GOV AND SEARCH "HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE."

