

Dispose of Unwanted Household Hazardous Waste Safely!

Environmental Educator Fact Sheet

What is household hazardous waste?

Do you have household products that you no longer need or have passed their 'use by' date? Some of these products contain chemicals or substances that can be harmful to you, your children and pets. These products are *household hazardous waste*.

Household hazardous waste can't be poured down the sink or put in the rubbish bin, because it can damage the environment including waterways, vegetation and soil.

How to identify household hazardous waste

Household hazardous waste includes a broad range of products that are flammable, toxic, explosive or corrosive. Our homes can be full of hazardous wastes. You can find them in your house or 'sizzling' away in your shed or car.

Look out for words like Danger, Poison, Warning or Caution on the product label to identify them.



Common household hazardous wastes that should be disposed of safely

- Insect spray
- Batteries
- Medicines
- Coolant/antifreeze
- Motor oil
- Brake fluid
- Fire extinguishers
- Transmission fluid
- Fuels
- Pool chemicals
- Paint stripper
- Rat poison
- Solvents and glues
- Acids
- Alkalis or bases
- Solvent-based paint
- Weed killer



What can you do with household hazardous waste?

It's easy to rid yourself of unwanted household hazardous wastes and help the environment at the same time - simply take your wastes to your nearest drop-off facility where they will be safely disposed of. A list of drop-off facilities can be found on the ZeroWaste WA website.

This service is provided free of charge however *only household quantities* of waste will be accepted (max. 20 litres or 20 kilograms).



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



Safe storage and transporting of hazardous wastes

It is important to take the following precautions when storing and transporting household hazardous wastes:

- Always handle hazardous wastes carefully and avoid direct contact. Wear gloves where possible.
- Check the label for correct storage advice.
- Store wastes away from children and animals.
- Keep wastes away from heat and moisture.
- Regularly check packaging is in good condition.
- Do not mix hazardous wastes as they may react violently.
- Always store in the original container.
- Ensure all containers are labelled with use by dates.
- When transporting, ensure lids are tightly fitted and wastes are securely packed.



Consider safer alternatives

Proper disposal of household hazardous waste can be expensive and available disposal is limited. We can all play a role in reducing the amount of hazardous material in our community, starting at home.

Each time you make the choice to buy and use safer household products you can help make the environment cleaner. Shop for less toxic products and use safer alternatives. To become a smarter shopper follow these simple steps:

- *Read labels carefully.*
- *Seek safer alternatives.*
- *Choose non-toxic products.*
- *Only buy quantities to meet your needs.*

MORE INFORMATION

For a list of household hazardous waste examples and drop-off facilities in Western Australia visit the ZeroWaste WA website www.zerowastewa.com.au