

TAKE ACTION!

Many hazardous wastes can be disposed of at local collection facilities or special hazardous waste collection days. Check with your county Health Department, your local landfill or solid waste facility for scheduled collection days and for more information.

Disposal Guidelines for Specific Hazardous Wastes

Much of the hazardous trash generated from your house, including turpentine, latex and oil based paints, cleaning materials and pesticides such as flea powder can be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection site. Follow disposal guidelines for the specific hazardous wastes listed below.

Acids & Bases: Items like muriatic acid, battery acid, nitric acid, and hydrofluoric acid can cause severe eye and skin damage. Try using your acids and bases according to label directions and dispose of them through a private hazardous waste company.

Antifreeze: Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol and is poisonous to humans and animals. Used antifreeze that is not contaminated with oil or other materials can be recycled. Check with your local service station. Contaminated antifreeze must be treated as a hazardous waste. Do not put antifreeze down a septic system.

Ash & Sludge: Ash and sludge from waste oil burners may contain heavy metals. Take this material to a landfill for disposal.

Asbestos: Asbestos fibers that can be inhaled or ingested are a toxic material requiring careful handling. Many types of asbestos-containing materials, such as floor tiles or asphalt-based siding and roofing materials, have little potential to yield

fibers in a powder or dust during removal and disposal. These may be sent to a landfill as solid waste. Asbestos cement (transite) or slate board roofing is dangerous and must be packaged, labeled and taken to a landfill that accepts this material. If other asbestos-containing materials are in good condition (not peeling, cracking or crumbling) leave them alone. If removal is necessary contact your local health district or the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality.

Car Batteries: Each car, ATV, motorcycle or boat battery can contain 18 pounds of lead and one pound of sulfuric acid. Recycle batteries at local automotive stores or recycling centers. If you buy a new battery, you can trade in the old battery.

Dead Animals: Bury animals far from wells, ditches, creeks, rivers and other bodies of water for public health and pollution reasons. Other methods of animal disposal include rendering or pick up service where available, landfilling (check regulations with your local landfill), or composting. For more information, see the Contacts and References section of this Fact Sheet.

Motor Oil Filters: Drain filters of used oil by puncturing the anti-drain back valve on the flat bottom end. If the filter doesn't have a back valve on the bottom, try puncturing a hole in the dome end. Place the punctured end down and drain the filter for 12 hours. The filter will drain best when it is still warm from the engine. Wrap the drained filter in newspaper and place it with regular trash. Some places recycle filters. Follow guidelines below to dispose of the used oil.

Oil Based Products: Lead paint, turpentine, paint thinner, varnish and filters from a paint booth can be flammable or toxic. Use up materials if possible and dispose of excess at a hazardous waste collection facility.

Old Fuels: If fuel such as diesel, gasoline, kerosene or fuel oil can't be used up, take them to a private hazardous waste firm.

Paint, Varnish, Stain, Paint Stripper: Latex or water based paint and stain, less than ten years old, can be air dried or solidified with an equal amount of clay cat litter and taken to a landfill or put out for trash pickup.

Pesticides and Banned Pesticides: Take pesticides that can't be used up to a special hazardous waste collection event or dispose of through a private hazardous waste firm. Old pesticides that have been in storage for many years should be placed in secondary containment until they are properly disposed. Many older pesticides are no longer registered for use. Spills of these chemicals are dangerous and can result in expensive cleanup. Refer to Fact Sheet 2 in this series, *How to Protect Your Water from Pesticide Contamination*, for more information about safe handling and disposal of pesticides.

Solvents: Parts-washing solvents, cleaning solvents and similar materials can be disposed of through a private hazardous waste disposal company. Renting a parts washer can be a good option for some operations and avoids the problem of solvent disposal by the individual homeowner or farmer.

Tires: Disposal of used tires is difficult because there are few options. Although a common practice, burning tires on a farm is unsafe. A tire burns very hot for a long time and releases toxic gases. Tires should be returned to the equipment/vehicle dealer who will chop them up and send them to a landfill or utility where tires are burned with coal to produce energy. The dealer will charge a disposal fee based on the size of the tire.



Used Motor Oil: You may recycle used motor oil at the local agricultural chemical dealer or oil change station. Oil can be burned in an approved furnace for heat. If the oil is contaminated with anything, such as solvent, kerosene or other materials, it must be treated as a flammable hazardous waste. Land spreading of waste oil is not allowed.

Veterinary Medical Waste: Check to see if you can return unused medical waste like antibiotics to your veterinarian. Call your extension educator for other options. Most special collection days for hazardous waste do not take medical waste. Place items like syringes in a heavy plastic container with a lid, marked clearly, and take to a landfill.

Wood Preservatives: Products used to protect wood are usually flammable and some are poisonous. Dispose of these at a hazardous waste disposal site or on a hazardous waste cleanup day.