

What can **YOU** do about HHW?



The best way to manage HHW is to **avoid creating it**. Select the least toxic product to do the job. Buy only as much as you need.

Is the product still usable? **Give it away**. A friend, neighbor, or community group such as Little League or Habitat for Humanity may be able to use it.

If the product isn't usable, or you can't give it away, take it to your community's **HHW collection program**.

Do you have used motor oil or used oil filters? Take them to a **used oil collection site**.

Take spent lead acid batteries back to the place where you bought them. State law requires dealers to accept old batteries when you buy new ones.

If your community doesn't have an HHW collection program, or if you must throw the material away before the next collection, **you may put it in your regular trash, PROVIDED:**

- You have complied with any disposal instructions on the label.
- There are no free-standing liquids. If water-based, allow the liquid to evaporate. If not water-based, absorb the liquid into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material.
- You have carefully packaged any residue to prevent leakage while the material is being transported to a disposal facility.
- Dispose of in small quantities over several collection periods.



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

2520-PA-DEP2315 Rev. 2022
G2567-FEB22

Visit DEP through the
Pennsylvania homepage at
www.dep.pa.gov

HOUSEHOLD **HAZARDOUS** WASTE (HHW)

What can **YOU**
do about it?

What is HHW?

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are wastes produced in the household* that could be chemically or physically characterized as hazardous.



However, HHW is not regulated as hazardous waste under federal and state laws.

Each person in Pennsylvania typically generates an average of 4lbs. of HHW each year. HHW includes old paint and paint-related products, pesticides, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, degreasers, car care products and other common household products.

If carelessly managed, HHW can create environmental and public health hazards.

*Households include: single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew headquarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds and day-use recreation areas.

How can I identify HHW?



Generally, HHW belong to one of the following hazardous waste categories:



CORROSIVES Drain cleaners, rust removers and oven cleaners. Corrosives have an extremely low or high PH and can burn skin and mucous membranes. Labels usually state, "CORROSIVE– AVOID CONTACT WITH SKIN OR EYES."



FLAMMABLES Gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, butane, oil-based paints and paint thinners. Labels usually say, "HIGHLY FLAMMABLE–KEEP AWAY FROM FLAMES."



TOXIC MATERIALS Benzene, cyanide compounds, poisons and pesticides. Materials may be carcinogenic. Labels usually state, "DANGER/POISON" or "WARNING–KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN."



OXIDIZERS Pool chemicals, sodium hypochlorite and various peroxides. These chemicals react strongly with other compounds and may cause fires or explosions. Labels usually say, "WARNING– STRONG OXIDIZER."



AIR QUALITY HAZARDS Certain thermostats, paints that contains more than one percent by weight of heavy metals, products containing significant amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and batteries (nickel, cadmium, lithium and lead acid).



WILDLIFE HAZARDS Chlorinated pesticides such as DDT, chlordane, dieldrin and heptachlor. Labels usually indicate materials present a hazard to fish or wildlife. Some materials may be slow to degrade and may bioaccumulate in the tissues of fish or wildlife.



UNKNOWNs Unidentified materials should be treated as though they belong to one of the above categories until proven otherwise.