

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or HHW. Products that contain hazardous ingredients are safe to use when you follow the manufacturer's instructions, but require special care when you dispose of them. If disposed of improperly, these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Have You Ever...

- ◆ Poured used motor oil or antifreeze on the ground?
- ◆ Thrown away dead batteries in the trash?
- ◆ Emptied a partial can of paint thinner down the drain?

Doing this only once or twice may not seem like a big deal, but if everyone in Allen County did this, those small amounts could equal a BIG water quality problem. The average Indiana household contains between 3 and 10 gallons of hazardous wastes! If this waste isn't disposed of properly, it could contaminate our rivers and streams.

Tox Away Day

The Allen County Solid Waste Management District holds a yearly Tox Away Day for residents of Allen County to properly dispose of their household hazardous waste. The event takes place in early September, and minimal fees apply. For residents who want to properly dispose of old tires, contact the District for information about the annual Tire Amnesty Day.

Who To Contact

**Allen County Partnership
for Water Quality**
3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Phone: (260) 484-5848 ext.111
Fax: (260) 484-5080

**Allen County Solid Waste
Management District**
1 Main Street, Room B86
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 449-7878

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Allen County
Partnership for Water
Quality

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



*A Reference Guide
for Homeowners*



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What's in Your Home?

These are just some of the household hazardous wastes found in most homes:

- ◆ **Kitchen:** Aerosol cans (full), floor care products, furniture polish, metal polish.
- ◆ **Bathroom:** Nail polish, nail polish remover.
- ◆ **Garage:** Antifreeze, automotive batteries, brake fluid, car wax with solvent, diesel fuel, oil, gasoline, kerosene, metal polish with solvent, motor oil, transmission fluid, windshield washer solution
- ◆ **Workshop:** Paint brush cleaner with solvent, paint brush cleaner with TSP (Trisodium phosphate), glue (solvent based), mineral spirits, oil based paint, automotive paint, thinner, paint stripper (solvent), primer, rust remover, turpentine, varnish, wood preservative.
- ◆ **Garden:** Fungicide, insecticide, rat/mouse/gopher poison, weed killer.
- ◆ **Here & There:** Household batteries, dry cleaning solvents, fiberglass epoxy, gun cleaning solvents, lighter fluid, moth balls, unmixed photographic chemicals, septic tank degreasers, swimming pool chemicals.

SAFER ALTERNATIVES!

Here are some safer alternative products that will get the job done well:

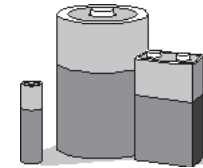
- Air Freshener:** An open box of baking soda absorbs refrigerator odors. For garbage cans, sprinkle boric acid in the can.
 - Antifreeze:** Look for the new, less toxic brands on the market.
 - Batteries:** Select the very-low mercury brands (99.5% mercury free) that are becoming widely available.
 - Drain Opener:** To prevent clogs, pour in 1/4 cup baking soda followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. When fizzing stops, flush with boiling water.
 - Rust Remover:** Vinegar's weak acid works well on rust stains.
 - Window Cleaner:** Wipe clean with a mixture of 3 Tbs. vinegar in 7 quarts of water.
 - Wood Furniture Polish:** Combine 1 part lemon juice with 2 parts olive oil.
- Contact the ACPWQ for a more complete list of safe alternatives to common cleaning and household products.

Bulbs & Batteries & Thermometers... Oh My!!

Why wait for Tox Away Day to rid your home of these items? Disposal sites are available year-round for:

- ◆ **Fluorescent Bulbs** These bulbs contain mercury and should not be put out for your weekly trash pick-up. 4-foot bulbs can be taken to the Merchandise Pick-Up Area at the Glenbrook Sears during normal business hours.

- ◆ **Batteries** Material in most household batteries is harmful to the environment and should be recycled properly. Drop off old batteries at Batteries Plus for proper recycling.



- ◆ **Mercury Thermometers** Some families have not yet replaced these thermometers with newer, safer types. Do not throw these away! Instead, dispose of them safely at the Fort Wayne- Allen County Department of Health Immunization Clinic, M-F, 8am-4pm.

- ◆ **Electronic Equipment** When replacing your electronic equipment with newer models, recycle them properly so the metals contained do not contaminate our water and soil. Take your computers and electronic equipment to OmniSource for a minimal fee.