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
  - Warning
  - Danger
  - Explosive
  - Volatile
  - Corrosive
  - Flammable
  - Combustible
  - Reactive
  - Poison
  - Toxic
  - 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.”

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.
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.

**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 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.

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### CAR CARE

| Product                         | Disposal
|---------------------------------|------------
| 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 and oil filters¹| TAKE IT    
| Transmission fluid              | TAKE IT    
| Windshield washer               | POUR IT    

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

### CLEANERS

| Product                               | Disposal
|---------------------------------------|------------
| Cleaners with ammonia²                | POUR IT    
| Cleaners with bleach²                 | POUR IT    
| Concrete cleaners (acid)              | TAKE IT    
| Disinfectants                         | POUR IT    
| Drain cleaner³                        | POUR IT    
| Metal cleaners                        | TAKE IT    
| Oven cleaners³                        | POUR IT/TAKE IT
| Polish/spot removers³                 | POUR IT/TAKE IT
| Polish with solvents⁴                 | TAKE IT    
| Pool chemicals                        | TAKE IT    
| Toilet/tub/tile cleaner³              | POUR IT/TAKE IT

² Never mix products containing ammonia with those containing bleach as it can cause an 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

| Product                      | Disposal
|------------------------------|------------
| Ammunition                  | TAKE IT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
| Fireworks/flares             | SOAK IN WATER AND TAKE IT

### PESTICIDES AND POISONS

| Product                               | Disposal
|---------------------------------------|------------
| 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

| Product                      | Disposal
|------------------------------|------------
| Weed killer                  | TAKE IT    
| Propane tanks (refillable)    | TAKE IT    
| Propane tanks (single use)    | TAKE IT    

### MEDICAL WASTE

| Product                                         | Disposal
|-----------------------------------------------|------------
| Pharmaceuticals, prescription drugs and medical sharps | TAKE IT    

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “health care waste” for instructions.

### OTHER COMMON ITEMS

| Product                                  | Disposal
|------------------------------------------|------------
| 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.”