REDUCTION AS THE FIRST CHOICE

Reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home and eliminate what you throw away by following these easy steps:

BEFORE YOU BUY:
• Read the labels and be aware of what they mean.
• 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
• Select a product best suited for the job.
• Research products online.
• Buy only what you can use entirely.

AFTER YOU BUY:
• Read product labels and follow directions for safe use.
• Use recommended amounts; more is not necessarily better.
• Store properly and keep in original container.
• Use the child-resistant lids and caps and keep them on tightly.
• Share what you can’t use with friends or neighbors.
• Recycle/dispose of empty containers properly.

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 waste management specialist.

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “household hazardous waste.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
To find either permanent collection facilities or information about hazardous waste collection events in your area, consult the Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center at www4.uwm.edu/shwec/hhw.

Wisconsin Clean Sweep Program
The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection administers a 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. Visit cleansweep.wi.gov or call 608-224-4545.

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.
SAFE DISPOSAL: KNOW WHICH OPTION IS THE SAFE ONE EVERY TIME

If you have leftover household hazardous waste products, use the information in the tables to the right for proper disposal advice. Check the product label for storage and disposal directions. Generally, you can manage household hazardous waste in one of four ways. The key to safe disposal is knowing which of these four options is right for each household hazardous waste item:

PITCH IT:
DROUGHT WASTE UNTIL IT IS SOLID AND PITCH IT IN THE TRASH

Some household hazardous wastes can be dried or mixed with cat litter until they are solid and placed in the trash. Be sure to check product labels and the management guide tables to the right first.

SWITCH IT:
FIND A NON-HAZARDOUS ALTERNATIVE AND MAKE THE SWITCH

There are often alternatives to using hazardous materials altogether. Search online for tips on how to switch your home to using non-hazardous and less-toxic alternatives.

POUR IT:
FLUSH WASTE WITH LOTS OF WATER AND POUR IN A SANITARY SEWER

Some household wastes can be poured into a sanitary sewer through a household drain as long as they are flushed thoroughly with water. Be sure to check product labels and the management guide tables to the right first. NEVER POUR HAZARDOUS WASTE IN A SEPTIC SYSTEM OR STORM DRAIN!

STORE IT:
FIND A COLLECTION PROGRAM IN YOUR AREA AND STORE WASTE SAFELY UNTIL COLLECTION

The first step to safe disposal is safe storage. Know how to safely store your household hazardous waste until collection or exchange programs are scheduled. Nearly all household hazardous waste can be collected or exchanged at community collection or exchange points. Check to see if your community has a waste exchange program and what items it collects. See the contact information on back.