



BUILDING AND CODES DEPARTMENT

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Household Hazardous Waste and Used Oil

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is waste generated in households that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. Managing the use and disposal of HHW properly is an important step in helping to keep our community clean and safe. Examples of HHW includes cleaners, pesticides, mercury thermometers, swimming pool chemicals, paint thinner, batteries, antifreeze, propane cylinders, and compact fluorescent bulbs. **Used oil (motor and cooking)** also requires proper handling in order to protect the environment in which we live.

The most effective, and least expensive, way to manage HHW is to reduce the amount of hazardous materials used in the first place. Substituting with products that have less of a hazard potential, buying in smaller quantities, purchasing new products only when old products are used up, and choosing products that can be disposed of at home are a few ways one can achieve this objective. Donating unwanted products to individuals or organizations for reuse is another way HHW can be eliminated from the waste stream. Recycling is possible with products such as lead-acid

batteries, paint, used oil, and antifreeze. The [Bi-County Solid Waste](#) facility accepts all of these items at no extra charge and will ensure they are handled in a manner that is safe for the community. A list of accepted items is posted on their website.

Disposing of HHW should be the last resort used in the management process. Many types of HHW can cause personal injury to sanitation workers, contaminate septic tanks, contaminate wastewater treatment systems, and are a hazard to children and pets when left around the home. Items that cannot be reused or recycled must be disposed of properly in order to protect the community. For these items, the Bi-County Solid Waste facility conducts a [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event](#) twice per year.

Until the disposal date arrives, the follow these tips for use and storage:

- Use and store according to package directions.
- Never store products in food containers.
- Keep products in original containers with the original label.
- Call the Bi-County Solid Waste facility [(931) 648-5751] for special instructions if the container is corroding.
- DO NOT mix leftover products in order to reduce storage space. This could cause an explosion or reaction. Mixed product can also become UN-recyclable.
- Follow any instructions for use and disposal provided on the label.