

Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

The average household contains between three and ten gallons of materials that are hazardous to human health or to the environment. The improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can cause problems for the entire community. Wastes can be explosive or highly flammable. Sewers have exploded and garbage trucks have burned because people have carelessly discarded flammable or reactive wastes.

Household hazardous wastes can leak from landfills and contaminate groundwater and surface water or can enter the air we breathe through emissions from landfills and incinerators. Some wastes are poisonous to humans or wildlife, while others can cause cancer, birth defects, or other serious medical problems. Any water that flows into storm drains flows untreated into the Chesapeake Bay or one of its tributaries. Used oil, antifreeze, or other chemicals should not be dumped into storm drains.



It is important to learn about the products you use in your home, garden, and workshop and how to dispose of these products when they are no longer needed. Hazardous wastes are any materials that are flammable, explosive, toxic, corrosive, or irritating. Unused medication is a form of hazardous waste and should not be thrown in the trash. Other common household hazardous wastes include, paint, cleaning supplies, and automobile fluids. Use the County's hazardous waste recycling and disposal facilities to dispose of hazardous waste.

To reduce the amount of hazardous materials you use, find less hazardous substitutes, do not buy more than you need, and follow all directions on the packaging. Store your waste materials in their original containers until the waste can be disposed of properly to prevent leaking.

Where To Get Help for hazardous waste information

- Be sure to check out the next Cecil County Hazardous Waste Disposal Day;
<http://www.ccgov.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/2460/20>
- Waste Reduction; <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2017-Waste-Management.pdf>
- Household Hazardous Waste;
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>
- Hazardous Waste; <https://nerc.org/state-information/delaware/overview>