

Special Wastes

Special wastes are items that cannot be recycled through a community curbside recycling program but can be recycled in other ways. The Solid Waste District has developed recycling opportunities for the following special wastes so they can be recovered and reused instead of sent to a landfill. We encourage county residents to recycle the following special waste items. If you have questions about other items, please contact the District.

The District accepts some of these items for recycling at our Special Waste Convenience Center. Our lobby is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. We are closed on federal holidays.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Recycle any unwanted, broken, burned-out or tangled strings, at the District's facility during the winter season. We also accept electrical strips and power cords.

SMALL APPLIANCES

Recycle small appliances and personal electronics (under 20 lbs.) at the District's facility throughout the year. No televisions.

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Political yard signs are collected in May and November at the District's facility. We accept plastic and cardboard campaign signs plus the metal stands for recycling after each election.

CELL PHONES

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The District sponsors Recycle Your Computer Month events each spring and fall at city service departments throughout Cuyahoga County. Computer equipment can also be dropped-off year-round at RET3 job corp. Call (216) 361-9991.

ELECTRONICS

Best Buy, Staples and other private e-waste recycling companies will recycle household electronics and old office technology. There may or may not be a charge.

MEDICATIONS

Cuyahoga County's Sheriff's Office provides the RX Drug Drop Box Program. Residents can deposit unused, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs at drop boxes located at local law enforcement agencies across the county. To find a drop off location, visit www.rxdrugdropbox.org or call 2-1-1. Needles and liquids are not accepted.

NEEDLES, SYRINGES

Seal in an empty plastic pop bottle and label "Caution: Sharps." Discard in trash. DO NOT recycle. Visit www.cdc.gov/needledisposal

TELEVISIONS

Best Buy will recycle televisions up to 32" and other electronics for free. Log onto www.bestbuy.com/recycling



Special Wastes

TIRES

When you buy new tires, dispose of your old tires through your tire retailer at the time of purchase. A small tax will be charged for tire disposal, to fund transporting and disposing of tires through licensed facilities. Some tire stores will accept scrap tires from non-customers (Conrad's Tire Express, Firestone Auto Care, and NTB).

SMOKE DETECTORS

Manufacturers of smoke detectors are required by law to accept them for recycling. Return the entire smoke detector to the manufacturer or store by UPS ground mail. Remove and dispose of the batteries before mailing. If you are unable to return a smoke detector to the manufacturer, it can be disposed of in the regular garbage.

POLYSTYRENE (STYROFOAM)

White, formed blocks of polystyrene can be dropped off at the District. We do not take Styrofoam sheeting, peanuts, colored foam or food trays.



4750 East 131st Street • Garfield Heights, OH 44105 • (216) 443-3749 • www.cuyahogaswd.org

Follow us!

www.facebook.com/solidwastedistrict • Twitter @RecycleCuyahoga • YouTube

January 2015

Cuyahoga County's Guide to the PROPER DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS and SPECIAL WASTES



Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are materials that are toxic, caustic or flammable and include the items listed here. These items should not be thrown in the trash, down a sewer, or on the ground. They should be turned in at Cuyahoga County's **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program**.

To make it convenient to dispose of these common household items, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District has partnered with the 59 communities in the county to offer periodic collection events for residents to turn in HHW for free. The communities deliver the materials to a Special Waste Convenience Center operated by the District.

The center was designed as a convenient way to recycle unwanted household chemicals and protect the environment. Your community determines when and where they will hold a HHW collection event. You can find out about these events by calling your local service department or visiting www.cuyahogaswd.org

Below is a list of items that are accepted in the **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program**. Additional recycling options are also listed.

ADHESIVES, ROOF TAR, DRIVEWAY SEALER

ANTIFREEZE, AUTO FLUIDS, MOTOR OIL

Lube Stop will accept up to 6 quarts of used motor oil, which cannot be mixed with other fluids. Contact your local store for more info. Some city service departments collect clean motor oil from residents; check with your community.

BATTERIES

Alkaline batteries can be safely disposed of in the trash. Lead-acid batteries from engines and rechargeable (Li-ion, Ni-cad) batteries from cell phones, power tools, cordless phones and laptop computers should be recycled. Lead-acid (vehicle) batteries can be turned in at AutoZone, O'Reilly Auto Parts, NTB, auto part stores and scrap yards. Rechargeable batteries can be turned in at many retail stores including Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Radio Shack. Visit www.rbrc.com for locations.

DRAIN CLEANER, HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

Drain cleaner should be used up according to package directions. Most water soluble cleaning products can be safely disposed down the drain with running water. Never mix drain cleaner with bleach or ammonia since toxic fumes or an explosion could occur. Try some of the greener, environmentally-safe products available for purchase.

FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury and should not be placed in the regular trash. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) can be recycled for free at any Home Depot or Lowe's store. Bring any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and drop them in the recycling kiosk by customer service. Fluorescent tubes from homes can be turned in at your city's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. Incandescent light bulbs and halogen bulbs go in the regular trash.



FRYER OIL

GASOLINE, KEROSENE

These fuels, even if they are old or contain oil or water, can be used again after being "reconditioned." A fact sheet from the Ohio EPA explaining how to recondition fuels can be requested by calling (330) 963-1200. Mix only what you need. At the end of the season, allow the engine to run dry to use up extra fuel.

HELIUM & OXYGEN TANKS

Empty helium and oxygen tanks can be recycled at a local scrap yard. Medical supply companies will accept an oxygen tank if you purchased the tank from them. These companies may dispose of your tank for a small fee: AAA Gas Supply (216) 228-4800, Air Gas Great Lakes (216) 241-1696, Recycle Zone (440) 471-4652.

MERCURY

Make sure to triple-bag or enclose the item in a plastic container, in case it breaks while being transported.

OIL-BASE PAINT, SEALERS, COATINGS

Oil-base paint is flammable. Large quantities of usable paint can be donated to a charitable organization.

PAINT THINNER, MINERAL SPIRITS, TURPENTINE

Solvents can be reused without losing their effectiveness until they have been used up, but may need to be filtered first. Filter the product by pouring it through a coffee filter over a glass jar. Paint and other sludge particles will be trapped in the filter. Wrap the filter in newspaper and dispose in the trash.

PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, FUNGICIDES

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS

Mixed black and white photography solutions can be diluted with water and flushed down a sanitary drain in your home. Do not dispose into a septic system. For more information about disposal of unmixed chemicals or color chemicals contact the Eastman Kodak Environmental Hotline at (800) 242-2424.

POOL CHEMICALS

PROPANE CYLINDERS

Most propane suppliers will exchange an old tank when a new tank is purchased. Visit www.bluerhino.com or www.amerigas.com. These companies will dispose of your tank for a small fee: AAA Gas Supply (216) 228-4800, Air Gas Great Lakes (216) 241-1696, Recycle Zone (440) 471-4652.

VARNISHES, POLYURETHANES, SHELLACS



What About Latex Paint?

The Solid Waste District DOES NOT accept latex paint (water-based) in the **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program** because it is not a hazardous material.

The best way to determine if your paint is a latex paint is to read the label. If the clean-up instructions say to use water, it is latex paint. If the clean-up instruction say to use paint thinner, it is a solvent based paint and should be turned in at a HHW collection event. Latex paint can be placed in your regular trash once it is dried out.

How to dry (solidify) latex paint

- Air dry. Remove the lid and allow the liquid to evaporate. This works well for small quantities of paint (an inch or two in the bottom of the can), and can take several days.
- Use a drying agent. Mix an equal amount of an absorbent material into the can and allow the paint to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris, Oil-dri, or "waste paint hardeners" found at home improvement centers. The paint could dry quickly, depending on how much drying agent you include in the can.
- Pour thin layers (about 1" of paint) into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened.

Once the paint is thoroughly dry, place it in a regular trash bag and put it out with your weekly rubbish collection.

Do Not

- DO NOT dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface and/or ground water.
- DO NOT pour paint down the drain. While small amounts of latex paint can safely be washed down the drain to a septic system or wastewater treatment plant, this practice should be kept to a minimum. Limit this to brush cleaning and other clean-up.
- DO NOT throw liquid paint in the regular trash. Leaking paint will spill out of a waste collection vehicle onto city streets and make an unsightly mess that is difficult to clean up.

Tips

- Buy the correct amount of paint for your project. Determine how much paint you'll need via a paint calculator offered by your local home improvement or decorating store website, or use a mobile app.
- Not sure if you'll like a color? Use paint swatches first or purchase a sample size.
- Be creative and use up any paint that you have left over. Paint a birdhouse, a garage wall, or outdoor furniture.
- Donate large quantities of good, usable latex paint to a local theater group, development corporation, or neighborhood improvement project. Make sure the paint is not contaminated with particulates, and it should not have gone through a freeze-thaw cycle. Call ahead first to make sure that your donation will be accepted.