

Hazardous Waste... Please Handle With Care

How-to Guide for Proper Disposal of Hazardous Products

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED to discover how many common products found in your home under the kitchen sink or in the basement could be hazardous to your health or the environment if used or disposed improperly. Most homes contain three to ten gallons of these everyday products. Read the following information to find out how to safely handle and dispose of these products. For additional recycling or disposal information, contact the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, Recycling Hotline at (845) 336-3336. Please leave a message and the Recycling Coordinator will return your call during business hours.

WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS?

A product is hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive or explosive. You can tell if a product is hazardous if words such as **POISON, DANGER, WARNING** and **CAUTION** appear on the label.

SOME EXAMPLES:

Oven cleaner	Oil-based paint
Metal Polish	Motor oil
Pool Chemicals	Household cleaners
Gasoline	Flea and tick powder
Turpentine	Bleach
Batteries	Spot remover
Medications	Drain cleaner
Furniture polish	

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF IMPROPER DISPOSAL?

Care must be taken to properly use, store and dispose of hazardous products so they do not harm people, pets and the environment. Hazardous products carelessly tossed in the trash can injure sanitation workers, damage collection vehicles, or leak into the environment. Some products, when poured down the drain or on the ground, can damage plumbing or septic systems and pollute our water supplies. Improper storage of these products within reach of children, or in unmarked or unsealed containers, is a safety hazard.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS?

The best way to get rid of hazardous products is to use them up or give them away to someone who can. Since this is not always possible, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is working to increase the availability of recycling and disposal options for many hazardous materials. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is conducted multiple times per year and provides households the opportunity to safely dispose of oil-based paint, solvents, pesticides, automotive products and other household hazardous waste for free. Residents with an immediate need for disposal can pay for the disposal through an environmental services company. Collection programs for electronics are also available. For more information on these programs, go to the last page or call (845) 336-0600.

SUGGESTED DISPOSAL METHODS

Alternative (disposal) *Inclusion of a private firm does not constitute approval or endorsement of that firm by UCRRA, or provide any assurances with regard to the quality of services provided by that firm.*

ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze can be disposed through an *UCRRA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event*.

DO NOT pour into a septic system. **DO NOT** pour down a storm drain on the street.

Vaz-Co Reclaiming Service located at 10 Commercial Avenue in Highland, NY 12528, (845) 691-6246 accepts automotive fluids (including gasoline and antifreeze) and oil filters.

BATTERIES

According to the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), most household alkaline batteries can be disposed of safely in the trash. Batteries that should be recycled include lead-acid batteries from engines and rechargeable (Ni-cad) batteries from cell phones, power tools, cordless phones and lap top computers. Lead-acid (vehicle) batteries can be turned in at *AutoZone*, *Advanced Auto parts*, *Sears Automotive Center* and many auto part stores. *Millens Metal Recycling* located in Kingston, (845) 331-7600 also accepts lead-acid batteries. Rechargeable batteries can be turned in at many retail stores including *Best Buy*, *Cingular Wireless*, *RadioShack*, *Sears*, *Target* and *Verizon Wireless*. Visit [Call2Recycle](#) for locations. Rechargeable batteries are also being collected during business hours at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency main office located at 999 Flatbush Road in Kingston, NY.

CELL PHONES

Under the New York State Wireless Recycling Act, effective January 1, 2007, all wireless telephone service providers that offer phones for sale will accept your cell phones for reuse or recycling.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT(CFL) BULBS

You can bring CFLs to the *UCRRA Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Events* held multiple times per year for free. You can also bring these to ALL *Home Depot* and *Lowe's* locations for the compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program. At each Home Depot and Lowe's store, customers can bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk.

In addition to the recent *Home Depot* and *Lowe's* announcement, the NYSDEC and NYSERDA have officially started a similar type of program for retail stores wishing to participate in CFL bulb collection. Currently, only *True Value in New Paltz* is a participating retailer in this program for this region. The NYSERDA program retailers do charge a \$1.00 fee + tax per bulb accepted for recycling. For more information on this program, click [here](#).

Currently, CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs are being collected on a regular basis at the *Town of Hurley* and *Town of Saugerties Transfer Stations*.

For large quantity generators, you may contact [American Lamp Recycling](#), 26 Industrial Way, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, (845) 896-0058

DRAIN CLEANER

The recommended way to dispose of drain cleaner is to use it up according to package directions. Never mix drain cleaner with bleach or ammonia since toxic fumes or an explosion could occur.

ELECTRONICS

The [NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act](#) went into effect on April 1, 2011. The law will ensure that every New Yorker will have the opportunity to recycle their electronic waste in an environmentally responsible manner. Used electronic equipment can encompass a variety of equipment including, but not limited to computers, CRTs, wireless telephones, electronic keyboards, mice, televisions, printers, monitors, portable digital music players, video cassette

recorders, DVD players, Blu-ray disc players, digital video recorders, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, electronic game consoles, PDAs, facsimile machines, and photocopiers, etc. Much of this used electronic equipment contains hazardous elements and compounds, including lead, mercury, and cadmium, which can be toxic if released into the environment. Therefore, it is important that used electronic equipment is managed properly.

1. Got some old electronics? Regardless of where you bought it, what brand it is, or how old it is: bring it to us. We'll make sure it's properly and safely recycled. Businesses (less than 50 employees), non-profits (less than 75 employees) and residents can now recycle their e-waste at the Agency (999 Flatbush Road location) for FREE during business hours Monday thru Friday! Call the Recycling Hotline (845) 336-3336 for more details.
2. You can also bring these items to your local transfer station (Municipal Recycling Drop-off Center). Click [here](#) for the list of participating locations.
3. You may also bring electronics to the UCRRA Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Events held multiple times per year for FREE.
4. You may also bring electronics to various retail locations. Some of these include, *Best Buy*, *Office Depot* and *Staples*. Please contact the store directly for further details.
5. **DONATE:** If your electronics equipment is in working, good condition, you may donate them to other Ulster County residents through the [FreeCycle Network](#) (FreeCycle Ulster County NY). It's an Internet community with chapters all over the country, in which people offer up items they no longer want and other people happily take them. The online bulletin board [Craigslist](#) also has a section where you can offer things for free to people in your area. Businesses, organizations and institutions may also contact the Recycling Hotline at (845) 336-3336 for a list of Electronics Recyclers. Also, *Alan's Affordable Computers* located in Stone Ridge will take your computer for donation if it is less than 4 years old to be refurbished for distribution to veterans.

GASOLINE AND KEROSENE

These fuels can be brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. *Vaz-Co Reclaiming Service* located at 10 Commercial Avenue in Highland, NY 12528 (845) 691-6246 accepts both gasoline and kerosene. These fuels can also be reconditioned and used up. These fuels, even if they are old or contain oil or water, can be used after being "reconditioned." Check out this fact sheet explaining how to [recondition fuels](#). **Note:** When mixing fuels for a lawn mower or snow blower, be sure to only mix what you need. At the end of the season, allow the engine to run dry to use up any remaining fuel.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SOLUTIONS

These products should be used up or given to someone who can. Household cleaners can still be used even if they are several years old. Most water soluble cleaning products can be safely disposed down the drain with running water. Do not mix products! Aerosol products can be disposed by turning the can upside down and then depressing the nozzle to release the propellant. Do this outdoors. Dispose of the container in the trash.

MEDICINE

Ulster County residents have the opportunity to discard their unused and/or expired medications at the UCRRA Household Hazardous Waste, Pharmaceutical Waste and Electronics Collection Events held multiple times per year. When pills or liquid medicines are poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet they remain diluted in the water supply after treatment and these trace amounts are suspected of causing a range of health problems, according to the EPA. Bring any prescription or over-the-counter pills, ointments, lotions and liquids for disposal.

Liquid medications should be in their original packaging and inside sealable plastic bags. Pet medications are welcome as well. The entire container along with its medicine will be placed into a sealed waste receptacle. Law enforcement will be on site to control the collection of these medications as well as to witness the best means of permanent disposal of medications at the Dutchess County Energy-From-Waste Facility in Poughkeepsie. There is no charge for this service but registration for an appointment to participate in this event is required. For more information on safe drug [disposal options](#), please review the guidelines posted by the NYSDEC.

MERCURY

Household mercury items such as thermometers, thermostats and switches should be returned to their manufacturer. Fluorescent light bulbs and other mercury containing devices can be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. For large quantity generators of fluorescent light bulbs, you may contact [American Lamp Recycling](#), 26 Industrial Way, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, (845) 896-0058. Visit the NYSDEC website for more information on [mercury management](#).

MOTOR OIL

New York State law requires service stations take used oil. Used motor oil can be recycled for free at many service stations and through other recycling programs. *AutoZone*, *NOCO Lubricants (Recovery Division)*, *Valvoline Instant Oil Change* and *Vaz-Co Reclaiming Service* are a few places that accept motor oil from the public. **Oil filters:** Puncture dome end and drain into a container for 12 hours. Recycle filter with scrap metal and take used motor oil to service station

OVEN CLEANER

Oven cleaner is a caustic material that should be used up according to package directions. **DO NOT** dispose into a septic system.

PAINT

Latex paint should be hardened and then disposed in the trash. To harden latex paint, remove the lid, mix in cat litter, then let air dry in a safe place until hard. Replace the lid and dispose in the trash. Oil-based paint should be disposed at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. Large quantities of usable paint can be donated to a charitable organization. For a list of organizations that accept paint donations or to be added to this list, please call the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency at (845) 336-3336.

PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES

The best way to dispose of these products is to use them up according to label directions, unless the products contain banned ingredients like DDT or Chlordane. If it is not possible to use up the products, then safely store them until a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. For large quantities of these materials, contact the NYSDEC to participate in one of the [CleanSweepNY](#) events. CleanSweepNY is an Environmental Benefit Project, sponsored and administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. CleanSweepNY provides safe, economical collection and disposal of unwanted or unusable pesticides, as well as school chemicals, elemental mercury, and mercury-containing devices.

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

PRINTER & INK JET CARTRIDGES

Please bring these materials to one of the participating retail stores: *Best Buy, Office Depot, Staples* and *participating schools* in Ulster County. These materials are also accepted for recycling at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Main Office during business hours only.

PROPANE CYLINDERS

Most propane suppliers will exchange an old tank when a new tank is purchased. To find an exchange location in your community, visit the [Blue Rhino](#) or [AmeriGas](#) website. Small propane tanks typically used for camping grills can be brought to your local town transfer station and recycled with scrap metal only if they are empty. The small tanks can also be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events held multiple times throughout the year. If you are not purchasing a new tank, the following companies will dispose of your 'empty' tank (all empty tanks except for small camping propane tanks). Please contact directly for fee schedule: *Campers Barn*, Kingston (845)338-8200 and *Millens Metal Recycling*, Kingston 331-7600.

SYRINGES AND HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

Please contact the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to obtain information and participate in the FREE [SHARPS Program](#) for Ulster County residents. This program provides residents with a safe disposal method for these materials. **DO NOT** recycle your SHARPS container. Bring full container back to one of the designated drop-off locations and exchange for a new, empty puncture proof SHARPS container.

TIRES

There will always be a cost to disposing of scrap tires. UCRRA will accept tires at either Transfer Station (New Paltz or Kingston). Click here for [fees](#). Tires may be brought to your Municipal Recycling Drop-off Center. Click [here](#) for schedule and locations. The best way to dispose of tires is through the retailer who sells you your new tires. Typical fees are \$2.00-\$4.00 per automobile tire. Also for a small fee, many tire retailers will accept tires from people who are not purchasing new tires. Tire retailers should be contacted directly about this. For large loads of tires, you can contact *Casings Tire Recycling* at (518) 943-9404 located in Catskill, NY. You can also contact *Unity Creations, Inc.* at 877-41-UNITY located in Saugerties, NY.

TURPENTINE/PAINT REMOVER/SOLVENTS

Unwanted solvents should be saved for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. Solvents can also be reused until they have been used up without losing their effectiveness but they may need to be filtered first. To do this, pour the product 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. Store the clean solvent in a sealed and labeled glass jar.

WOOD STAINS & SEALERS

Use up, give to a friend, or save for an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Safe Handling Tips

- Buy only what you need
- Follow label directions and use only what is needed for the job. Twice as much does not mean twice the results.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing to prevent skin contact.
- Use products in well ventilated areas.
- Do not mix products. Doing so can cause dangerous chemical reactions or an explosion.
- Avoid aerosol products. Aerosols disperse the substance in tint droplets that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- Store products in their original container in well-ventilated areas.

Ulster County Hazardous Waste Collection Programs

For event details and dates, call the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Recycling Hotline at (845) 336-3336 or check the website for frequent updates at www.ucrra.org

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

This free event is held multiple times per year, typically in the spring, summer and fall. During this event, Ulster County households may turn in unwanted oil-based paints, stains, sealers, solvents, garden chemicals, automotive fluids and other hazardous household products for safe and proper disposal. Collection locations vary to better accommodate all county residents. Hazardous waste from farms, businesses and institutions is not accepted at these events. Please contact the NYSDEC to participate in one of the [CleanSweepNY](#) events.

Electronics Recycling Event

This event is held in conjunction with the HHW Event to collect unwanted electronics, including computers and TVs from the public. Hazardous materials in computers make them unsuitable for landfill disposal. Collection locations vary to better accommodate all county residents. There is no fee for electronics recycling. [Electronics Recycling Program Update](#): Regardless of where you bought it, what brand it is, or how old it is: bring it to us. We'll make sure it's properly and safely recycled. Businesses (less than 50 employees), non-profits (less than 75 employees) and residents can now recycle their e-waste at the Agency (999 Flatbush Road location) for FREE during business hours Monday thru Friday! Call the Recycling Hotline (845) 336-3336 for more details.

Pharmaceutical Waste Collection Event

This event is held in conjunction with the HHW Event to collect unwanted, unused or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications for safe disposal. When pills or liquid medicines are poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet they remain diluted in the water supply after treatment and these trace amounts are suspected of causing a range of health problems, according to the EPA. Bring any prescription or over-the-counter pills, ointments, lotions and liquids for disposal for FREE at this event.

Reminder: The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency **does not accept latex paint** at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Latex paint is not hazardous as it is comprised mostly of water. To dispose of latex paint, solidify and place in your curbside trash.

To solidify latex paint:

- Allow the paint to dry by removing the lid and allowing liquids 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.
- Latex paint can also be solidified by mixing in an equal amount of an absorbent material and allowed to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris, oil dry, or "waste paint hardeners" found at home improvement stores.
- 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.
- When thoroughly dry, the remaining hardened paint should be placed in a garbage bag discarded with your regular trash.

DO NOT:

- Dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface or ground water.
- Pour it 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 clean-up.
- Throw liquid paint in the regular trash. It may be released from the can when trash is compacted and seep out of a waste collection vehicle onto your street.

LIST OF ACCEPTABLE ITEMS AT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE -		ELECTRONICS FOR RECYCLING-	
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS		ACCEPTABLE ITEMS	
—	Oil based paints, stains, varnishes- NO LATEX PAINT	—	Monitors (no more than 5 total) *
—	Paint thinner, solvents, and strippers	—	CRTs
—	Lighter fluid	—	TV's (no more than 5 total) *
—	Waste fuels: Kerosene, Gasoline	—	Telephones
—	Pesticides and insecticides	—	Copiers
—	Poisons, weed killers, mothballs	—	Keyboards
—	Mercury, thermostats, thermometers	—	Terminals
—	Hobby supplies, artist supplies	—	Printers
—	Photo chemicals, chemistry sets	—	Modems
—	Oven, toilet and drain cleaners	—	CPUs
—	Rug and upholstery cleaners	—	VCRs and DVD players
—	Automotive products	—	Fax Machines
	- used oil filters	—	Typewriters
	- antifreeze, engine degreaser	—	Cables
	- carburetor cleaner, brake fluid	—	Cell Phones
	- transmission fluid	—	Batteries
	- automotive batteries	—	Microwaves
—	Swimming pool chemicals	—	Video game players
—	Rubber cement, airplane glue	—	Answering machines
—	Furniture, floor, and metal polishes	—	Tape recorders
—	Dry cleaning solvents and spot removers	—	Stereos and radios
—	Fluorescent bulbs (UV, tubes, spirals, etc.)		* No more than FIVE monitors and/or TV's (combined total) *
—	Pharmaceutical Waste includes: Expired/unused medications, pet medications, liquid medications, ointments, lotions, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications		Electronics Collection does NOT include appliances such as: AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, VACUUM CLEANERS