

Residential Household Hazardous Waste...

is collected at the Charles County Department of Public Works FREE OF CHARGE the first Saturday of each month, April–December, 9:00am–3:00pm. The Department of Public Works is located at 10430 Audie Lane in La Plata, Maryland (off of Radio Station Road). Please remember to mark any container that does not have a readable, original label.

Acceptable Items

- ✓ Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer
- ✓ Gasoline
- ✓ Oil-based paint
- ✓ Cleaning supplies
- ✓ Pool chemicals
- ✓ Prescription drugs
- ✓ Fluorescent lights
- ✓ Other poisons that are around your house

Non-Acceptable Items

- ✓ Ammunition
- ✓ Bio/Medical Wastes (sharps, needles, body fluids)
- ✓ Commercial Hazardous Waste
- ✓ Used motor oil, antifreeze, propane tanks, and batteries are accepted on a regular basis. It is not necessary to wait until an HHW collection day to discard these materials.
- ✓ Latex paint can be placed in your household trash as long as it is solidified. This can be accomplished by adding kitty litter, shredded paper, or sawdust to the liquid latex paint to aid in drying it out.

For questions and/or concerns regarding the information contained in this brochure, please contact the Charles County Division of Environmental Resources at

301-932-3599 or 301-870-2778

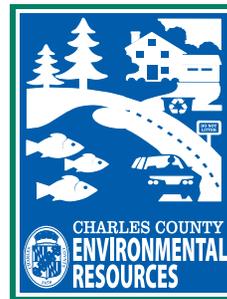
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CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Equal Opportunity County



Department of Public Works

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301-932-3599 • 301-870-2778
MD Relay: 711 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258

Learn more at:

www.charlescounty.org/recycling

Mission Statement – The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility.

Vision Statement – Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

Our appreciation to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for providing this important information.

CHARLES COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

GOING GREEN
In Charles County



Brochures provided courtesy of
**Charles County
Department of Public Works
Division of Environmental Resources**

10430 Audie Lane, La Plata, Maryland 20646
301-932-3599 • 301-870-2778

What is Household Hazardous Waste

If you walk around your garage, kitchen, bathroom, or workshop, you'll probably find hazardous materials or products you and your family use every day. Hazardous materials that can no longer be used become "household hazardous waste" (HHW). HHW includes hazardous materials such as household cleaners, oil based paints, paint thinners, motor oils, gasoline, and pesticides. HHW may pose a threat to human health or the environment if it is not disposed of properly. HHW poses a threat because it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

Toxic

Poisonous materials like pesticides and expired medicines can harm various organs when swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Some toxic materials can also cause cancer.

Corrosive

Materials like battery acid and bleach can dissolve other materials, including metals. Corrosive materials can cause severe burns to skin, eyes, and other tissues.

Ignitable

Flammable materials like gasoline and paint thinner catch fire very easily, sometimes with just a little extra heat or a small spark. Ignited materials can cause severe burns.

Reactive

Unstable materials can explode or give off poisonous gases when mixed with water or other materials (for example, mixing bleach and ammonia).

Why is Household Hazardous Waste Reduction Important?

When HHW is not disposed of properly, it can be dangerous for people and the environment. For example, if HHW is combined with your household trash, handlers can be injured from explosions, fumes, or fires. If HHW is dumped on the ground or poured into sewers, storm water can wash it into streams, lakes, and rivers. It also may seep down through the ground until it reaches aquifers, which are underground sources of water. The water may then no longer be drinkable, or it may be more difficult to treat water to safe drinking levels. Plants and animals that live in or near the streams, lakes, and rivers can also be harmed from HHW in the water.

How Can Pollution Prevention Help

Changing What You Use

✓ Read labels on the products you use and ask yourself, "Do I really need to use this product?" Safer alternatives may exist. For example, you could use water-based (latex) paint instead of oil-based paint, compost instead of chemical fertilizers, cedar chips instead of mothballs, or boric acid instead of commercial roach killers.

Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaner Mix vinegar with salt and water for a good surface cleaner.

Drain Cleaner Use vinegar and baking soda followed by boiling water.

Tub/Tile Cleaner For bathroom tiles, mix baking soda with non-chlorine bleach to form a paste. Apply with a brush, let dry, and wipe with a clean cloth.

Air Fresheners For room odors, set out a few drops of vanilla or peppermint extract in a dish; use aromatic herbs, incense, or potpourri. For carpet odors, sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum.

Roach Deterrent Sprinkle cracks and dark places with technical-grade boric acid or borax. Keep out of reach of children or pets.

Ant Deterrent Wash counter tops, cabinets, and floor with equal parts of vinegar and water to deter ants.

Window Cleaner Mix one tablespoon of lemon juice to one quart of water. Wipe window with newspaper.

Changing What You Do

✓ Think about what you do in your home that generates HHW and ask yourself, "Is there a safer way I can be doing this?" For example, you could use sandpaper or a heat gun instead of chemical paint strippers or a plunger instead of a chemical drain cleaner.

✓ If you must use hazardous products, read and follow the specific instructions on labels. Most products provide instructions for use and proper disposal.

Collection days allow HHW to be disposed of properly. However, the key is to prevent HHW generation in the first place. The best way to do this is to use non-hazardous products, but there are other ways to reduce HHW.

- ✓ Buy hazardous products only in the quantity you need and use the product up entirely; consider how you will dispose of unused portions of a hazardous product before you purchase it.
- ✓ Make sure you don't use too much of a product. More is not necessarily better. In fact, using more material than necessary costs you money and may be more hazardous for you or the environment.
- ✓ If they are still in usable condition, reuse hazardous products or share with a responsible friend or neighbor that needs the products.

Improving Your Housekeeping

- ✓ Store hazardous products according to the instructions on labels.
- ✓ Unless the containers are leaking, always keep hazardous products in their original containers. The containers are designed specifically for the products.
- ✓ Immediately clean up any spills or leaks according to the instructions on the label.
- ✓ Make sure the containers always have readable labels. If a label comes off or can no longer be read, make a new label with a permanent marker.

Educating Yourself & Others

- ✓ Share your knowledge and ideas regarding HHW reduction with your family and friends.
- ✓ Read and learn more about other alternatives to using hazardous products.

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