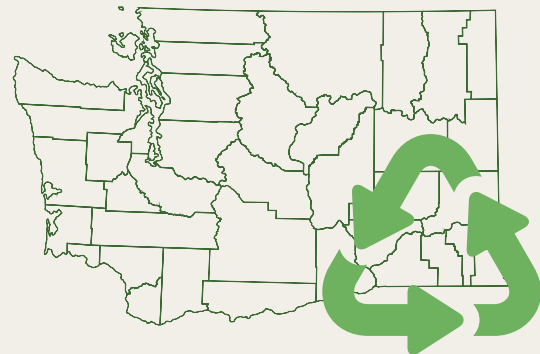


Household Hazardous Waste Program Guidance

Who We Are and What We Do

Leaders responsible for efficiently and effectively implementing county solid waste programs across Washington State are the members of the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM). They are the professionals who manage and operate these vital systems every day.

Counties have a duty under state law to manage the proper collection and disposal of wastes, including recycling. To achieve these outcomes, counties work hard to encourage recycling and waste reduction while properly disposing of remaining wastes, including household hazardous waste (HHW). County solid waste programs are a critical public service that protects the environment and human health.



- ✓ Solid Waste Programs
- ✓ Managing Waste Streams
- ✓ Sustainable Recycling

The Problem

Understanding which everyday items are considered HHW is confusing. *Knowing where and how to dispose of them is even more challenging.*

Most consumers are confused about which common household items are potentially hazardous and should not be thrown in the trash. It is not always obvious that an item is considered HHW, rather than just regular garbage. Sometimes it is not clear how to properly dispose of an item when necessary.

There is little consistency between counties for residents to dispose of HHW properly. Some counties have permanent facilities to collect HHW, but many do not. For those that do have physical, dedicated sites, hours of operation may not be convenient. In some counties and for some items, collection events are scheduled once or more per year. These events provide an opportunity for residents to dispose of HHW properly. But they also require them to be aware

the event is happening, take the time to participate, and stockpile HHW until the event takes place.

Residents are also likely to discover that some counties accept certain items but not others. Today, there is wide variation in what HHW commodities are allowed for disposal from county to county. For instance, residents may find they can properly dispose of an empty propane tank in one county but not in a neighboring county.



As a result, we cannot achieve the environmental and public health protection our state needs.

The Solution

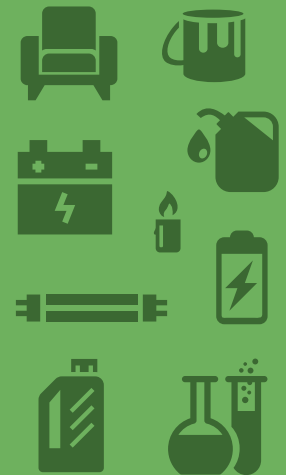
- Specific disposal options for common HHW should be readily available to every resident in every county.
- Consumers should be able to identify the items that are potentially hazardous and have access to reasonable disposal opportunities.
- Each county can define its services based on local needs through its comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. However, WACSWM members support the policy that every county provide a minimum level of service for HHW disposal.

Household Hazardous Waste Program Core Principles

1. Every county should provide disposal options for a standardized list of HHW items that are relatively easy to collect and manage.
2. A permanent HHW collection facility should operate in every county.
3. Counties should be responsible for managing the standardized list of HHW items from households and small quantity generators only.

WHAT TO INCLUDE:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerosol cans (including spray paints) • Automobile products (antifreeze, brake fluid, oil filters) • Automobile batteries • Butane tanks • Fire extinguishers • Flares • Fluorescent lights • Furniture and other wood stains and varnishes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline • Glue, contact cement, rubber cement • Household cleaners • Hobby chemicals (chemistry sets, photography chemicals, etc.) • Lawn and garden pesticides and chemicals • Lead • Lithium batteries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats • Motor oil • Oil-based paints • Pesticides • Propane tanks • Rechargeable batteries • Smoke detectors • Solvents and thinners • Swimming pool and spa supplies |
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Other common items that require special handling should be available to residents for disposal in some fashion

WACSWM members recognize other everyday items do not appear on this standardized list but require special handling. Residents do need options for removal. In many cases, county solid waste management programs are not equipped to handle some of these items. In other cases, it is more appropriate for other agencies, like law enforcement or a health care facility, to take the waste. In still other instances, the private marketplace has developed solutions that residents can utilize.

Other items requiring special handling that county residents need disposal options for:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos • Bullets, ammunition, and gunpowder • Computers (E-cycle) • Computer monitors (E-cycle) • Contaminated soils • Electronics (E-cycle) • Explosives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks • Medicines • Medical sharps • Medical waste • Refrigerants • Televisions (E-cycle) |
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