

Household Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet



Many of the products we keep in our homes are considered household hazardous waste, and should not be poured down the drain or thrown in the trash. To help safely dispose of these items, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority designates special Household Hazardous Waste days throughout the year that provide residents with an opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted household chemicals and cleaners.



Items accepted on disposal days include: kerosene, insecticides, pesticides, drain cleaners, fertilizer, solvents, paint thinners, furniture polish, weed killers, pool chemicals, rat poison, auto care products, gasoline, photographic chemicals, turpentine, acids, caustics, rust remover, oven cleaners, chemistry sets, gasoline and gas/oil mix.

Many products in our homes are considered hazardous waste and need to be disposed of properly. Workers separate various types of hazardous materials during a household hazardous waste day at the ACUA.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and other mercury containing devices are also collected and should be placed in a sealed plastic bag or its original container to prevent breakage.

Items not accepted for disposal include: explosives, radioactive materials, ammunition, gas cylinders, 2, 4, 5 Silvex; dioxin, PCB's, asbestos, propane tanks and pentachlorophenol.

Other products used in the home, yard, garden or workshop may also be considered household hazardous waste. If in doubt, treat the product as household hazardous waste.

To safely package and transport household hazardous waste, the following guidelines should be followed:

- keep all products in original containers
- wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in a plastic bag or garbage container
- place items securely in a box for transport
- keep chemicals that could react with one another separated



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- do not leave materials in hot, unventilated areas for long periods of time
- individual container sizes cannot exceed five gallons and individual oil containers will not be returned



Improper disposal of household hazardous materials can not only pollute the environment, but also pose a threat to human life. Residents are reminded not to dispose of liquid chemicals, banned pesticides, or motor oil in the trash. Also, storm sewers should never be used for disposal of waste. Safely store these items in their original containers and do not remove the labels.

Check the ACUA website at www.acua.com or call (609) 272-6950 for the next ACUA Household Hazardous Waste Day.

There are many safer alternatives to using hazardous materials in your home:

- For an all purpose cleaner: use a vinegar and salt mixture or 4 tablespoons of baking soda in 1 quart warm water
- To get rid of ants: sprinkle powdered red chili pepper, paprika, and dried peppermint or borax where ants are entering.
- To get rid of weeds: there are no safe herbicides - take the time to pull weeds by hand.

For more information about alternatives to pesticides and household cleaners please visit the following websites:

<http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/safe-fs.html>

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/>

<http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm>

<http://www.purdue.edu/dp/envirosoft/housewaste/src/alt2-2.htm#Aerosol>

<http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/safe-fs.html>

For more information on household hazardous waste please visit the ACUA at www.acua.com or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at <http://www.epa.gov/msw/hhw.htm>.