

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Waste is dangerous to human health and the environment. It includes toxic, corrosive, flammable, radioactive and reactive waste.

Hazardous Waste is the most dangerous of all wastes...

It can immediately affect humans and the environment or its full effects may take years to appear.

The Ministry of Environment uses the following definition: **“Hazardous Waste is dangerous to human health and the environment. It includes toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive and radioactive waste from homes, industry and agriculture.”**

The average Canadian household produces 35 litres of hazardous waste each year. Not including industrial or agricultural hazardous waste, Ontario homes produce a total of 140 million litres per year.

Ever Wonder About Eco Fees?

Recently, many consumers have been questioning new “eco fees” that are appearing on their bill when they purchase certain hazardous household products. The media has been abuzz with fears of an unpublicized new tax.

The reality, however, is quite different.

An organization called Stewardship Ontario is responsible for handling hazardous waste in Ontario. Stewardship Ontario charges the manufacturers and importers fees for what it costs to recover, recycle or safely dispose of these hazardous products. They are not involved, in anyway, in the setting or collection of eco fees. Rather, they collect fees from manufacturers based on the amount of product they manufacture and sell in a year. For example, they collect 12-cents for every 1,000 prescription pills manufactured.

The legislation governing the program does not require an “eco fee” for consumers. Manufacturers and retailers have in some cases chosen to pass the cost of doing business on to consumers and identified the cost as a separate “eco fee”. Therefore, there is no standard fee – in reality the program should not add more than 10 cents to the cost of a hazardous product.

The eco fee is charged at the discretion of manufacturers and retailers and the funds go to an industry organization, not to government.

CORROSIVE

Substances that eat and wear away at many materials.
ex. battery acid, drain cleaner



FLAMMABLE

Liquids that can ignite under any circumstance.
ex. lighter fluid, turpentine



TOXIC

Materials that, even in small quantities are poisonous.
ex. rat poison, chlorine bleach



REACTIVE

Materials that can create an explosion or deadly vapours.
ex. ammonia, chlorine bleach



RADIOACTIVE

Materials that give off small doses of radiation.
ex. Ionizing smoke detectors



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When in doubt, don't throw it out.

All household hazardous and special waste materials should be disposed at a facility equipped to handle that material.

Visit makethedrop.ca to find your closest depot.



Please note that not every location accepts every hazardous material, but here is a list of all possible hazardous waste materials. To find out whether your household hazardous material is accepted, contact ahead.

- All aerosol containers
- Automotive antifreeze
- Single-use dry cell batteries
- Rechargeable batteries
- Toxic materials
- Corrosives and irritants
- Portable fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent tubes and bulbs
- Compact-cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs)
- Leachate toxics
- Reactive materials
- Mercury devices such as thermometers
- Used oil filters
- Paints and coatings
- Pesticides, fungicides and herbicides
- Fertilizers including supplements and micro-nutrients
- Industrial stationary and non-lead acid motive batteries
- Pharmaceuticals for both humans and pets
- Sharps, including needles, syringes, lancets and pens
- Empty oil containers for products that contained lubricating oil
- Flammables including solvents, gasoline & automotive additives
- Pressurized containers, such as propane, oxygen and helium tanks



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The following table displays a variety of common household items that are potentially hazardous. Along with the particular hazard characteristic labeled, there is also disposal directions and information on safer alternatives with 'recipes' you can easily create at home with common products. Use this guide to your benefit so when you come across these materials, proper procedure is taken to ensure the waste is disposed accordingly. We do suggest you try the safer alternatives as well.

HOUSEHOLD ITEM	HAZARD	DISPOSAL	SAFER ALTERNATIVES
Disinfectants	Toxic	Use existing product, then convert	Use 125mL borax in 4-5 liters of water
Drain Cleaner	Toxic Corrosive	Waste Depot	Use a handful of baking soda with 125mL of vinegar & allow to sit 1 hour then clear out.
Chlorine Bleach	Toxic Corrosive	Use existing product, then convert	Use 1 part hydrogen peroxide to 5 parts of water per load.
Spray Starch	Flammable	Use existing product, then convert	Mix 15mL corn starch with 250mL water in pump spray bottle
Paint Strippers	Flammable Toxic	Waste Depot	Use a heat gun and sandpaper.
Stains & Finishes	Flammable Toxic	Waste Depot	Use latex paint or natural earth pigment finishes
Fertilizers	Toxic	Use existing product, then convert	Organic fertilizer, compost, mulch
Herbicides	Toxic	Waste Depot	Keep grass short, hand weeding
Dish Detergents	Phosphates	Use existing product, then convert	Use commercial phosphate free or environmentally friendly soaps
Silver Polish	Toxic Corrosive	Waste Depot	Soak in boiling water with baking soda, salt & a piece of aluminum
Floor Cleaner	Toxic Corrosive	Waste Depot	Use 75mL washing soda & 125mL ammonia in 4 litres of warm water
Furniture Polish	Toxic	Use existing product, then convert	Use 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts olive or vegetable oil
Batteries	Toxic	Waste Depot	Use rechargeable batteries or adapter & power cord

Drop off Sites

Here is a list of locations in the area to drop of Hazardous Waste!

