

# 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.

## When in doubt, don't throw it out.

In Ontario there are now 22 household hazardous and special waste materials that can be collected, recycled or safely disposed of.



### 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



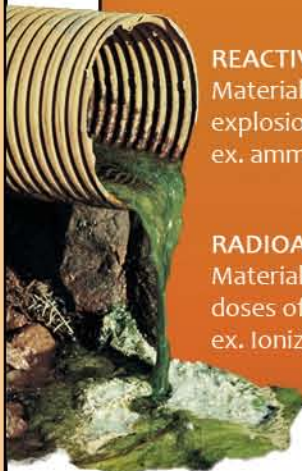
### REACTIVE

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



## You can now return:

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



Visit [makethedrop.ca](http://makethedrop.ca) to find your closest depot.

## 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 and 23-cents per litre of insect repellent.

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.

Unfortunately, many in industry have chosen to misrepresent the facts and have told consumers that the eco fee is a government-mandated tax – but in reality, the eco fee is charged at the discretion of manufacturers and retailers and the funds go to an industry organization, not to government.

Up until the Waste Diversion Act, property taxpayers foot the bill for disposal and diversion of waste, including the high costs of safely disposing of hazardous materials. Many municipalities will continue to provide the service to their residents and are negotiating contracts with Stewardship Ontario to do so.

