

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Many of us have HHW in our homes such as paint, household cleaners, automotive wastes, pesticides, pool chemicals, and many others. Please keep these items in their original labeled containers so that you can refer to directions for proper use, storage, and disposal. Always store them in a safe, dry place – out of reach of children and animals. Because households produce these wastes in limited quantities they are not regulated as hazardous wastes under federal and state laws.

Please try to donate house paint or thinner to groups that can use it for community projects. Check with the store where you purchased and they may take back unused product. Local automotive parts stores will take your used motor oil. The Jeter Recycling Center will accept old lead acid batteries.

If you have no other options, you may put HHW in your garbage cart for disposal, **but you must meet each of the following conditions:**

1. Follow the instructions on the product's label.
2. Be sure there are **no free standing liquids**. Open the container and allow any liquid to evaporate. Or absorb the liquid into cat litter, sawdust or other absorbent material.
3. Carefully place the absorbent material and any remaining residue in a leak-resistant bag and place in your garbage cart.
4. Be sure you only dispose of a small amount of waste at a time. Divide larger quantities and dispose of them over several collection weeks.

Never pour waste into the storm drain. Storm drains are systems of ditches, culverts or underground pipes that collect storm water runoff from streets, driveways, parking lots and yards. Usually the pipes empty the untreated water directly into creeks, lakes and rivers. When household hazardous waste is dumped down the storm drain, the waste can directly pollute surface water, ground water, and threaten drinking water supplies.

In our society, household hazardous waste is guaranteed. Sensible purchase, use, storage and disposal of these items can greatly reduce the potential negative environmental impact they could create.

If you need any additional information about the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, please call us at 334.705.5480.