

ECO-Friendly Homes: Inside & Out
Household Hazardous Waste Information
&
Green Cleaning Options

Errin Henggeler
City of Fort Collins
Environmental Regulatory Specialist



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- Be smart when you use, store, and dispose of household products
- Did you know that the products you use for cleaning, carpentry, auto repair and gardening can contain ingredients that can harm you, your family and your environment?

HHW – What is it?

- Look for labeling that reads "DANGER," "WARNING," "CAUTION," "TOXIC," "CORROSIVE," "FLAMMABLE," or "POISON."
- These warnings tell you if the product is harmful to you, your family and the environment.

HHW – What is it?

- Pay close attention to the labels on:
 - Drain Openers
 - Oven Cleaners
 - Automotive Fluids
 - Paint Thinners, Strippers and Removers
 - Grease and Rust Removers
 - Glues
 - Bug and Weed Killers
 - Mold and Mildew Removers

HHW Facts

- Americans generate 1.6 million tons of HHW per year
- The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the basement and garage and in storage closets.

HHW Facts

- Products, such as CFL's, paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides, that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.
- Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the trash.

Managing HHW

DO:

- carefully read and follow warnings and handling instructions on the container or package label.
- purchase products in as small of an amount as you can that will still get the job done.
- use products up before purchasing new products.

Managing HHW

DO:

- safely store products in their original containers and labels at all times.
- look for less toxic alternatives.
- plan ahead - don't wait until the day before you move to try to dispose of several years' worth of accumulated wastes.

Managing HHW

DON'T:

- dispose of household hazardous wastes by pouring them on the ground or into the storm sewer or gutter.
- mix chemical products or wastes
- put liquid wastes in the trash unless they have been stabilized for disposal.
- put toxic materials such as pesticides down the drain.
- Store leftover products in food or beverage containers

HHW

- Here's what you can do to safeguard your family, your home and your community...

HHW

Always...

- **READ the Label**
Before you buy, always check the product labels

HHW Storage

- **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS**
- **KEEP** products in their original containers and store them safely away from children and pets

HHW Storage

- If a HHW product container is compromised – place the rest of the product in a like container and label the containers with the same warning's as on the original container
- When leftovers remain, never mix HHW with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode, and contaminated HHW might become unrecyclable.

Green Cleaning Options

- For everyday tasks, try household products that are less harmful.
- Remember to follow the same rules about storing these products and
- Always, Always Label

Green Cleaning Options

- Glass Cleaner: Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water.
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar.
- Furniture Polish: Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of vegetable oil.

Green Cleaning Options

- Rug Deodorizer: Sprinkle liberally with baking soda and vacuum after 15 minutes.
- Plant Spray: Wipe leaves with mild soap and water and rinse.
- Mothballs: Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns.

Green Cleaning Options

For many other green cleaning 'recipes'

- <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/basin/local/houslist.html>

HHW Disposal Options

Many options available locally for used oil, CFL's, and rechargeable batteries.

Examples:

- Many auto part stores will used oil from the do-it-yourselfers
- Ace Hardware stores, Drake Hardware and the Light Center will take CFL's for recycling from residents.
- Rechargeable Batteries can be dropped off at Circuit City, Best Buy, and Batteries Plus

HHW Disposal Options

Larimer County offers a permanent HHW collection facility: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Larimer County takes almost all HHW – reusable items are placed in the Drop-N-Swap store for free pick up and use

HHW Disposal Options

HHW One Collection Event

Saturday June 5, 2010

More details to come soon at www.fcgov/hazwaste.com



Helpful Links

Federal Links

- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/materials/hhw.htm>
- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/materials/pubs/hhw-safe.htm>

State Links

- <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/hhw/index.htm>
- <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/hhw/doanddont.htm>

Helpful Links

Local Links

- <http://www.larimer.org/solidwaste/Haz.htm>
- <http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/>

Contact Information

Errin Henggeler, CHMM

ehenggeler@fcgov.com

970-416-2320



QUESTIONS?

