



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

1. What are household hazardous wastes?

Household hazardous wastes (also known as HHW) are common items found around the house that may pose hazards to sanitation workers and the environment when handled or disposed of improperly. These hazards could include toxicity (poisonous to humans, plants and/or animals), ignitability (could catch fire), corrosivity (either acidic or alkaline/basic) and reactivity (could explode). Special handling of these wastes is required to minimize environmental risk and protect our safety and health. These wastes should not be discarded with regular household trash.

What are examples of HHW?

From the house:

Acids
Adhesives, glues and epoxies
Aerosol spray cans
Batteries (other than alkaline batteries)
Cleaners and disinfectants
Fire extinguishers
Lime and other highly alkaline products
Medications (for humans and animals)
Nail polish and remover
Perfumes
Toiletries

From the yard:

Fertilizers
Fungicides
Insecticides
Pesticides
Pool chemicals
Propane cylinders
Rodenticides
Weed killers
Charcoal containing flammable agents

From the garage:

Antifreeze
Auto batteries
Brake and transmission fluids
Engine cleaners
Flammable liquids and solids
Flares, fireworks and ammunition
Fuels (butane, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, lamp oil)
Glues
Oil and used oil filters
Oil-based paints
Paint thinners
Photo chemicals
Power steering fluid
Solvents
Wood finishes

If you are not sure if a material can be disposed as HHW, call the County's Solid Waste Division at 410-326-0210.

2. How should we get rid of HHW?

Calvert County's Landfill and Convenience Centers cannot accept HHW during normal operating hours. Residential HHW can be disposed of at no charge to Calvert County residents on the scheduled HHW Collection Days. These dates are posted at the County Convenience Centers and listed on the County Department of Public Works HHW webpage. [County Resident Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days | Calvert County, MD - Official Website \(calvertcountymd.gov\)](http://calvertcountymd.gov)

All HHW Collection Days are held from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, rain or shine. Proof of Calvert County residency is required (such as a driver's license or a utility bill). Commercial haulers, businesses and institutions are not permitted to dispose of their hazardous wastes at HHW Collection Days.

3. Are there any HHW that are not accepted on Residential HHW Collection Days?

Yes. If your household items include or contain any of the materials listed below, they cannot be accepted. Contact the County Solid Waste Division at 410-326-0210 for instructions on how to dispose of these items.

- Silvex (2,4,5-TP)
- Large empty containers (such as 30-, 55- & 85-gallon capacities)
- Products containing asbestos
- Biohazardous wastes (such as syringes, lancets, IV needles) that are not in sharps containers
- Dioxins
- Ketones
- PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls)
- Radioactive materials (such as old watches or smoke detectors)

4. Where can other wastes not previously listed be disposed?

Wastes listed below can be taken to the designated locations for disposal.

| Waste Material | Convenience Centers | Appeal Landfill Only | Comments |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Antifreeze | | | |
| Batteries | | | Includes Lead-Acid, Lithium and Rechargeable |
| Compressed Gas Cylinders | | | Includes oxygen, carbon dioxide, Acetylene Tanks; Fire Extinguishers; Disposal Fee of \$8/cylinder |
| Diesel Fuel | | | |
| Helium Tanks | | | |
| Kerosene | | | |
| Light Bulbs | | | All Types |
| Mercury | | | From old thermometers and thermostats |
| Metal and Metal Products | | | |
| Biohazardous Wastes | | | Syringes, Lancets, IV Needles that are in sharps containers |
| Oils | | | Hydraulic, Motor (not mixed with gasoline), Transmission |
| Oil Filters | | | |
| Propane Tanks | | | 1-lb. Size Only |
| Propane Tanks | | | All Tanks Greater Than 1-Lb.; Disposal Fee of \$5/ Tank |
| X-Ray and MRI Film | | | All personally identifiable information should be removed from X-Ray and MRI films |

5. What happens to the collected HHW?

Because these wastes are highly varied, each type requires special handling and disposition. Collected Household Hazardous Wastes are sorted and accumulated according to waste type. Calvert County works with reputable contractors who recycle or dispose of the wastes in appropriate containers. Some wastes are incinerated and others recycled. Landfill disposal is used as little as possible.

This document was written by the Environmental Commission for informational purposes only and is not official Calvert County policy.