

## 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.