

## What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients are considered to be “household hazardous waste,” or HHW.

Products that contain hazardous ingredients are safe to use when you follow the manufacturer’s instructions but require special care when you dispose of them.

If disposed of improperly, these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

### Have You Ever....

- ⇒ ***Poured used motor oil or antifreeze on the ground?***
- ⇒ ***Thrown away dead batteries in the trash?***
- ⇒ ***Emptied a partial can of paint down the drain?***

Doing this only once or twice may not seem like a big deal but if everyone did this, those small amounts could equal a BIG water quality problem.

The average Hoosier household contains between 3 and 10 gallons of hazardous waste. If this waste isn’t disposed of properly, it could contaminate our rivers, lakes and streams.

Revised, 2013

## Tox-Away Day

The Allen County Solid Waste Management District holds a yearly Tox-Away Day for residents of Allen County.

This collection event allows county residents to properly dispose of their hazardous waste. The event takes place in early September and minimal fees may apply.

Under special circumstances, quarterly collections are also available.

Call the Solid Waste Management district at 260/449-7878 to schedule a special collection.

### Who to Contact:

#### Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
260/484-5848 ext. 111

#### Allen County Solid Waste Management District

1 Main Street, Suite 701  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
260/449-7878

#### Fort Wayne/Allen County Department of Health

200 E Berry St., Suite 360  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## A Reference Guide for Residents



[www.acwater.org](http://www.acwater.org)

## What's in *YOUR* Home?



### These are some of the household hazardous wastes found in homes:

**Kitchen:** Aerosol cans; floor care products; furniture polish; metal polish

**Bathroom:** Nail polish; Nail polish remover

**Garage:** Antifreeze; automotive batteries; brake fluid; car wax with solvent; diesel fuel; oil; gasoline; kerosene; metal polish with solvent; motor oil; transmission fluid; windshield washer solution.

**Workshop:** Paint brush cleaner with solvent; paint brush cleaner with TSP (Trisodium phosphate), glue (solvent based); mineral spirits; oil-based paint; automotive paint; thinner; paint stripper (solvent), primer; rust remover; turpentine; varnish, wood preservative.

**Garden:** Fungicide; insecticide; rat/mouse/gopher poison; weed killer.

**Here & There:** Household batteries; dry-cleaning solvents; fiberglass epoxy; gun cleaning solvents; lighter fluid; moth balls; unmixed photographic chemicals; septic tank degreasers; swimming pool chemicals.

### SAFER ALTERNATIVES!

Here are some safer alternative products that will get the job done well.

**Air Freshener:** An open box of baking soda absorbs refrigerator odors. For garbage cans, sprinkle boric acid in the can.

**Anti-freeze:** Look for the new, less toxic brands on the market

**Batteries:** Select the very low mercury brands (99.5% Mercury-free) that are becoming widely available.

**Drain Opener:** To prevent clogs, pour in 1/4 cup of baking soda followed by 1/2 cup of vinegar. When fizzing stops, flush with boiling water.

**Rust Remover:** Vinegar's weak acid works well on rust stains.

**Window Cleaner:** Wipe clean with mixture of 3 tbs. vinegar on 7 qts. of water.

**Wood Furniture Polish:** Combine 1 part lemon juice with 2 parts olive oil.

Contact the ACPWQ for a more complete list of safe alternatives to common cleaning and household products.

## Bulbs, Batteries & Thermometers...Oh my!

*Why wait for Tox-Away Day to rid your home of these items? Disposal sites are available year-round for:*

**Fluorescent bulbs:** These bulbs contain mercury and should not be put out for your weekly trash pickup.

4 foot bulbs can be taken to the nearest Merchandise Pick-Up Area at Sears during normal business hours. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) bulbs may be recycled at most major hardware stores during normal business hours.

**Batteries:** Material in most household batteries is harmful to the environment and should be recycled properly. Drop off old batteries at Batteries Plus for proper recycling.



**Mercury Thermometers:** Have you replaced your old thermometers with newer, safer types? Do not throw these away! Instead, dispose of them safely at the Fort Wayne/Allen County Department of Health Immunization Clinic, M-F 8am-4pm

**Electronic Equipment:** When replacing your electronic equipment with newer models, recycle them properly so the metals contained do not contaminate our water and soil.

For a nominal fee, OmniSource will take your computers and electronic equipment. A+ Computers will recycle your computers and equipment for free (no monitors, please).