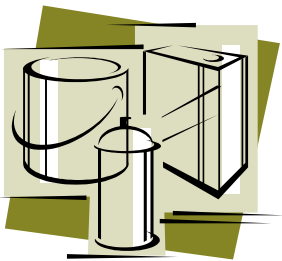


**W**e have filled our homes with household products that are used to make modern living easier. This includes paint, household cleaners, automotive waste, pesticides, pool chemicals, and many others.

**T**he best way to manage household hazardous waste is to avoid creating it. Remember to buy only as much as you need. Check the product label for the Precautionary Statement and choose the least toxic product to do the job. Look for signal words which indicate the product's degree of hazard.

- **Caution** indicates a mild hazard
- **Warning** indicates a moderate hazard
- **Danger** or **Poison** indicates an extreme hazard

**K**eep leftover products in 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.



Eventually, the time comes when we are finished using these products and we want to dispose of the leftovers.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
P O Box 301463  
Montgomery AL 36130-1463  
1-800-533-2336

# Household Hazardous Waste



Practical Management  
for Every Home

**A**mericans produce 4 million pounds of household hazardous waste every day. Because households produce these wastes in limited quantities they are not regulated as hazardous wastes under federal and state laws.

**M**any things can go wrong when you don't take the time to dispose of your household hazardous waste properly.

**I**f the product is still useable, find someone who can use it. Is there anyone who could use a small amount of house paint or thinner, such as a wood worker or a local theater group? Local nurseries or community gardens might need leftover pesticides. Use your imagination.

**I**f the product isn't usable, or you can't give it away, see if there is anyone who can take it and dispose of it properly. Most communities in Alabama do not have household hazardous waste collection sites, but there are some that do.



**C**heck with your local government to see if your community sponsors household hazardous waste collection. Take spent lead acid batteries back to the place where you bought them. Most dealers accept old batteries when you buy new ones.



Not seeing it doesn't mean it isn't damaging the soil, water and air.

If you have no other options, you may put it in your regular trash for disposal, but you must meet each of the following conditions:

1. Follow the instructions on the product's label!
2. Be sure that there are **no** freestanding liquids. Open the container and allow any liquid to evaporate. Or absorb the liquid into cat litter, sawdust or other absorbent material.

3. Carefully contain the absorbent material and any remaining residue in a leak-resistant bag or other container while the waste is being transported to a disposal facility.
4. Be sure that you only dispose of a small amount of waste at a time. Divide larger quantities and dispose of them over several collection periods.

**N**ever pour waste into the storm drain. Storm drains are systems of ditches, culverts or underground



pipes that collect storm water runoff from streets, driveways and parking lots. Usually the pipes empty the untreated water directly into lakes and rivers. When household hazardous waste is dumped down the storm drain, the waste can directly pollute surface water, groundwater, and threaten drinking water supplies.

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