



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL TIPS

FOR THE FORWARD-THINKING AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

AEROSOL PRODUCTS

Save for household hazardous waste collection, or take to a commercial hazardous waste facility.

Aerosol cans containing propellant are explosive if crushed. Aerosol propellant can be flammable, and requires use away from heat. Some aerosol cans contain hazardous chemicals.

BATTERIES

Alkaline batteries made in the US can be put in the trash, save **all other batteries for household hazardous waste collection.**

Batteries burned in waste combustion facilities can release mercury or cadmium into the air and water. These metals can enter the food chain and pose health threats to people and the environment.

CRAFT SUPPLIES

Save these materials for a household hazardous waste collection day.

Certain craft supplies may contain toxic materials. Dried up paints and adhesives can be put in the trash. Leftover paints containing toxics, such as cadmium and chromium, should not go in the trash. Pack tightly in container if danger of leaking.

ELECTRONICS

The Electronics Take-Back Coalition lists Staples as a nearby e-waste drop-off facility.

Electronic equipment and appliances with printed circuit boards may contain lead from solder, mercury in switches, lithium batteries, and heavy metals. If an item is still functioning, try donating to a charity or non-profit group.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Old fire extinguishers should be saved for household hazardous waste disposal.

Dry chemical extinguishers must be emptied prior to disposal with trash, and may be discharged in an area where an acidic fertilizer would be used, such as around evergreens. Carbon dioxide extinguishers are refillable, and should be refilled by the manufacturer.



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MEDICAL WASTE

Take unwanted pharmaceuticals to a medication disposal kiosk, such as those at the Longwood CVS or any Boston police station.

LIGHT BULBS

Save for household hazardous waste collection.

PAINTS

Paints containing lead, mercury, chromium or cadmium should be saved for household hazardous waste collection.

PESTICIDES

If you no longer have a use for the product, save it for hazardous household waste collection.

SHARPS

Dispose of medical sharps at a collection site. Pack broken glass sharps in a sturdy jug, bottle, or box, label container as sharps, and dispose of with trash.

Unwanted pharmaceuticals pose a safety risk to children and adults. Antibiotics poured down the drain can kill beneficial microbes and may adversely affect fish and other marine organisms.

Fluorescent light bulbs, including energy saving compact bulbs, contain mercury. When a bulb breaks, it releases mercury - which is toxic to the human nervous system and can poison wildlife - into the air.

Oil-based paints and stains contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that vaporize at room temperature; vapors may be toxic when inhaled. To store paint, cover the opening with plastic wrap and seal lid tightly. Store upside down, in a well-ventilated area, away from heat. Hardened oil-based or latex-based paint can be disposed of in the trash, with lids removed.

Pesticides and herbicides are designed to be toxic to pests and can harm birds, fish, pets, and people if misused. Store pesticides in original containers that are closed and labeled, in a secure area out of reach of children and pets.

Keep sharp objects, such as needles and lancets, in secure containers out of reach of children. Shards of glass may injure eyes or skin.

