

Household Hazardous Waste

Leftover paints, pesticides, household cleaners, automotive fluids, household batteries and other everyday items we have or use in our homes can be hazardous. Many of these products contain chemicals that are poisonous, corrosive or flammable. These materials may contaminate the environment if poured on the soil, discarded down a household or storm drain, or dumped in the garbage. It's harmful and illegal to put these materials into the trash.

The Alameda County Environmental Health Department operates three drop-off facilities accepting household hazardous materials, free of charge to Alameda County residents. The facilities are located in Hayward, Livermore and Oakland and operate on an appointment-only basis.

To make an appointment to safely dispose of your household hazardous waste, or for more information about how to keep hazardous materials from our waste stream, please contact the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 800-606-6606 or 510-670-6460. For information on safer, less toxic alternatives to hazardous household products, contact the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program at 510-670-5543.



Appliances (page 16)

Large household appliances are also called “white goods” and include stoves, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dryers, and water heaters. Before disposing of an appliance, contact your local thrift shop or used appliance dealer. Some appliance dealers may purchase or pick up appliances in good condition. You may also want to call your garbage service provider for information on “community cleanup” programs or other curbside pickup services.

Under state law, all appliances are banned from landfill disposal. In addition, federal and state law requires that hazardous materials contained in appliances be removed prior to recycling. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and water coolers contain refrigerants, such as ozone-depleting Freon, which must be evacuated by a professional. Appliances can also contain transmission oil and components which may contain mercury and PCBs. The refrigerants, oil and other hazardous materials must be removed by a trained operator. Do not attempt to do this yourself.

