

Household Hazardous Waste

Best practices for selecting, storage, and disposal

Choosing products

- **Avoid toxic chemical products when a nontoxic alternative will do.** Purchase environmentally-friendly products or make your own at home.
- **Avoid surplus HHW by only purchasing as much as you need for the task.** Recycling is great, but not as impactful as reducing waste in the first place!

Store safely

Follow safe storage instructions on the product label and keep these best practices in mind.

- Keep products in their original containers and do not remove safety labels. Do not combine HHW products or reuse empty containers.
- Seal tightly and store in a cool, dry place away from children, pets, and food products.
- Separate flammables, corrosives, and poisons from other materials and place on separate shelves.

Dispose responsibly

- HHW is not safe to be burned, buried, thrown in the trash or backyard, or poured in the drain or storm sewer.
- If products are still usable, consider donating.
- To find safe disposal for household chemicals in your area, contact your municipality, the DEP Recycling Hotline or your County Recycling Coordinator.

What to do if my container is leaking?

Place the entire container in a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid and surround it with a non-flammable absorbent, such as kitty litter.

! WARNING

How do I know if a product is hazardous?

Look for warning labels that include words and phrases like

poison toxic
warning danger
corrosive flammable

Keep out of reach of children

PA DEP Recycling Hotline:

800-346-4242

Poison Control: 800-222-1222



prc.org/hhw-guide

