



# Household Hazardous Waste

## Proper disposal, safer alternatives

*Many everyday products used for housework, home improvement, car maintenance and gardening may contain chemicals that can harm your health or pollute the environment. For proper disposal, it's important never to discard these products in the sink, on the ground, down a storm drain or in your garbage can. Instead, Metro can help you safely dispose of hazardous household waste and discover the benefits of using less-toxic products.*

### Identifying hazardous waste

Being able to recognize which products around the home are hazardous is an important part of ensuring proper disposal. Some products may include words such as “warning,” “caution,” “flammable,” “poison,” “danger” or “combustible” on the label. The following descriptions characterize household hazardous products:

**Ignitable** – capable of burning or causing a fire.

**Corrosive** – capable of eating away materials and destroying living tissue.

**Explosive or reactive** – able to cause an explosion or release poisonous fumes when exposed to air, water or other chemicals.

**Toxic** – poisonous, either immediately or over a long period.

### Disposing of toxics safely

Metro accepts various types of household hazardous waste for recycling or disposal. Bring it to one of Metro's two transfer stations year-round - just \$5 for up to 35 gallons of household

hazardous waste - or participate in a free Metro collection event from March to November.

Here's how to prepare, transport and deliver hazardous products for recycling or disposal by Metro:

- Keep products in original containers, making sure they're properly sealed and leakproof.
- Label unmarked containers if certain of contents. Alert technician upon arrival if contents are unknown.
- Avoid mixing products together to help prevent dangerous chemical reactions.
- Keep entire load to 35 gallons or less, and use containers 5 gallons or smaller. No drums or plastic bags. For larger loads or containers, call Metro Recycling Information to schedule an appointment.
- For safe transport, pack products in sturdy, leakproof boxes and place them in vehicle trunk.
- Keep items upright. Put leaky items in plastic bags.
- Remain in vehicle upon arrival

### Typical household hazardous products accepted by Metro for safe disposal

- Batteries
- Paints and stains
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Propane tanks and canisters
- Fire extinguishers
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Pesticides and poisons
- Automotive products (motor oil, antifreeze)
- Thinners, solvents
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Aerosol spray products
- Sharps (medical syringes, lancets, etc.)
- Medications
- Mercury-containing products (fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, thermometers, thermostats)
- No electronics (cell phones, computers, etc.)

at facility; a technician will unload your materials. And, please, no smoking.

### **Aerosol cans**

Use up the contents if possible, and put empty containers - no caps, please - in your curbside recycling bin. Take full or partially full cans to Metro's collection events or hazardous waste facilities.

### **Antifreeze**

Used antifreeze can be recycled at Metro's transfer stations and through some private recyclers.

### **Motor oil**

Used motor oil can be recycled at the curb in clear, unbreakable containers with screw-top lids. Used oil filters can be recycled at some locations.

### **Medical sharps**

Metro accepts household medical needles in rigid, leakproof, puncture-resistant containers clearly marked with the biohazard symbol and sealed for safety. Join Metro's exchange program for just \$5 per container, and get a new sharps container at no cost each time you bring a full one to Metro's hazardous waste facilities.

### **Paint cans and paint**

Recycle dry, empty metal paint cans and lids at the curb. If possible, put the metal lids inside the can and crimp the top so the lid does not shake out. You can also recycle plastic paint containers at the curb unless they have a metal rim, in which case they are trash. A thin film of paint is acceptable in containers that are recycled curbside. Plastic paint lids are not recyclable. Leftover liquid

paint is accepted at Metro collection events and at sites participating in the PaintCare recycling program.

### **Reduce use of toxic products**

Save a trip to the hazardous waste facility and protect the health and safety of your family at the same time.

Choose safer alternatives

Metro provides tools for living online or in print.

- Find simple cleaning tips and recipes for a safer home.
- Understand what household products are hazardous, how to handle them and what alternatives are available.
- Learn ways to build healthy soil, cultivate thriving plants and handle bugs or disease without resorting to toxic pesticides that can harm kids, pets, waterways and wildlife.

### **Grow Smart. Grow Safe.**

You want to protect your plants from bugs, weeds and diseases. But be sure to protect your family and your pets, too. Most pesticides can be hazardous – even organic ones. If you're considering using a pesticide, choose the lowest-hazard option that will get the job done by checking the list with the Grow Smart Grow Safe iPhone app or at [growsmartgrowsafe.org](http://growsmartgrowsafe.org).

### **Using hazardous products**

Check your inventory before buying new products and buy only what you need.

Share leftovers with someone who can use them. Exception: old pesticides, which lose effectiveness after two years and may contain banned chemicals (e.g., DDT, Kelthane).

**Metro offers toxics disposal** at its two household hazardous waste facilities and periodic collection events.

### **Metro Central Station**

6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland

### **Metro South Station**

2001 Washington St., Oregon City

### **Facility hours**

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily.  
(Metro Central closed on Sunday.)  
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's day.  
Call Metro Recycling Information for details.

### **Business hazardous waste or commercial waste**

Learn about Metro's conditionally exempt generator program for eligible businesses that produce small amounts of hazardous waste.

### **For more information**

Ask Metro

503-234-3000

[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)

Hablamos español

