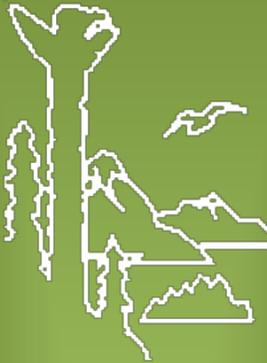


Household Hazardous Waste Collection

August 2011



Solid Waste Program

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<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw>

Although most households use and store materials that can be considered hazardous, those materials are exempt from regulation as hazardous waste. Examples of household hazardous waste (HHW) are provided in the box below.

Because HHW are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations, such materials can be disposed in a municipal landfill. However, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) recommends against this if an alternative to landfill disposal exists in your community.

Many landfills and communities collect HHW and ship them for disposal in a hazardous waste landfill. Some communities have year-round HHW collection services while others may host a single annual collection event. Some guidelines for safe HHW collection are provided below.

Elements of a Safe HHW Collection Program

- For safety, HHW collection and storage areas should be clean, well-organized, and (if at the landfill) separate from other landfill operations.
- The collected materials should be stored under a roof or in covered containers.
- The collected materials should be sorted and stored based on hazard class and the storage area for each class of materials should be clearly labeled. Examples of hazard classes include *Flammables* (fuels, solvents), *Corrosives* (vehicle batteries, acids, and *Poisons* (pesticides).
- Any spills should be cleaned up immediately. Clean-up materials should be on hand at all times, and should include materials for both oil-based and water-based substance cleanup.
- Employees who are responsible for handling HHW should attend a Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) Site Worker course.

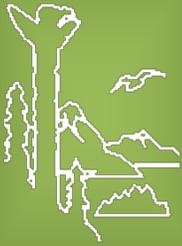
Examples of HHW

Used Motor Oil
Gasoline/Diesel
Antifreeze
Automotive Fluids
Lead-Acid Batteries
Lithium Batteries
Solvents
Paint Products
Adhesives
Drain Cleaner
Aerosol Cans
Flourescent Bulbs
Pesticides
Herbicides



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- The public should be educated about which items are considered HHW and about the importance of keeping HHW out of the landfill.

Establishing a HHW Collection Program or Event

The following steps are important for planning a HHW collection program or event:

- Estimate how much HHW will be collected by determining about how many households will participate and assuming an average of five gallons of HHW will be collected from each household each year.
- Determine the costs of any required equipment or facilities, training, labor, and other local operating costs.
- Contact an environmental service company for an estimate on labor, shipping and disposal costs.
- Develop a budget that will cover the costs of operating the collection site or conducting the collection event, including the costs for shipping and disposal.
- For an annual collection event, hire an environmental service company to conduct the collection event, package all collected waste, and properly ship material for disposal in accordance with federal regulations.
- For an on-going collection program, hire an environmental service company to periodically ship and dispose of materials in accordance with federal regulations.
- Advertise the household hazardous waste collection event or program in the community.



*Batteries from HHW Collection



*Paint from HHW Collection

