



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

Is There Hazardous Waste in Your Household?



Your home may seem like a safe place, but take a look around. There are many types of household products that contain potentially hazardous materials. To keep your home safe, it's a good idea to identify your household hazardous materials, to be sure they are stored safely and to plan for proper disposal at the end of their useful life.

Identify Hazardous Materials

Products are considered to be hazardous if they have one or more of the following properties:

- **Flammable/Combustible**
Can be easily set on fire.
- **Explosive/Reactive**
Can detonate or explode through exposure to heat, sudden shock, pressure or incompatible substances.
- **Corrosive**
Chemical action can burn and destroy living tissues or other materials when brought into contact.
- **Toxic**
Capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption. Some toxic substances cause cancer, genetic mutations and fetal harm.

Labels of hazardous products are required by federal law to list signal words. **DANGER** or **POISON** indicate that the product is highly toxic, corrosive or extremely flammable. **WARNING** or **CAUTION** indicate that the product is moderately or slightly toxic. Watch for these signal words on many common household products and be sure that you use and store them according to their specific label directions, and dispose of them properly when necessary.

Here is a list of some of the more common household items that contain potentially hazardous ingredients that may be found throughout your home.

<p>Cleaning Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oven cleaners • Drain cleaners • Wood and metal cleaners and polishes • Tub, tile and shower cleaners • Toilet cleaners • Bleach • Pool chemicals 	<p>Indoor Pesticides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ant sprays and baits • Cockroach sprays and baits • Flea repellents and shampoos • Bug sprays • Houseplant insecticides • Moth repellents • Mouse and rat poisons and baits
<p>Automotive Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor oil • Fuel additives • Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners • Air conditioning refrigerants • Starter fluids • Automotive batteries • Transmission and brake fluid • Antifreeze 	<p>Workshop and Painting Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhesives and glues • Furniture strippers • Oil or enamel based paints • Stains and finishes • Paint thinners and turpentine • Paint strippers and removers • Photographic chemicals • Fixatives and other solvents
<p>Lawn and Garden Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides (weed killers) • Insecticides (bug killers) • Fungicides and wood preservatives 	<p>Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batteries • Electronics and TV's • Mercury thermostats and thermometers • Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs • Driveway sealers
<p style="text-align: center;">Other Flammable Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propane tanks and other compressed gas cylinders • Kerosene • Home heating oil • Gasoline and oil, or a mixture of gasoline and oil • Lighter fluid 	

To safely dispose of these items and other household hazardous waste, Guilford County residents may take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, located at 2750 Patterson Street, near the Coliseum in Greensboro. There is no charge to drop off materials, and facility staff will unload your car for you. The HHW facility is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Have questions or need more information?

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