

# MANAGING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & E-WASTE

## What are household hazardous wastes?

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are products that contain ingredients that are flammable, corrosive, combustible, toxic and/or reactive. HHWs include, but are not limited to:

- used motor oil
- automobile batteries
- household rechargeable batteries
- gasoline
- paint, thinners and solvents
- pesticides
- fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs
- pool chemicals
- cleaning supplies

## What are e-wastes?

E-wastes or electronic wastes often come in the form of obsolete electronics like computers, monitors, printers, televisions, VHS players, etc. These electronics may still have recyclable parts. Residents may drop off e-wastes at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility to be recycled or disposed. Limit 5 components per visit.



## Are biohazard wastes and medications accepted?

Polk Waste & Recycling does not accept the following materials:

- Biohazardous waste
- Hypodermic needles
- Unused or expired medication



Florida Dept. of Health in Polk will accept needles and most police stations in Polk County will accept medications.

## Why is proper disposal so important?

HHWs can be harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment. They can contaminate water supplies and should never be thrown in the trash, poured down the drain, storm sewers or on the ground. Never leave hazardous products within the reach of children or pets.

## Proper Disposal in Polk

Household chemical and electronic waste from Polk County residents is accepted at no additional fee at the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility** located at the North Central Landfill.

Businesses, non-profit groups, or entities other than residential households, are not eligible for this service. **Federal law requires businesses to properly dispose of all hazardous waste.**

For information on commercial hazardous waste disposal options, to learn more about the Small Business Disposal program or to simply learn more, contact our office at (863) 284-4319 or visit [www.polkwastewise.net](http://www.polkwastewise.net).



## Storage and Transport Safety for Disposal

- Do not mix chemicals together
- If containers are in poor condition, pack securely in a sturdy box or bucket when transporting. Do not pack in plastic bags.
- During transport, place containers in a well ventilated trunk or truck bed

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility



Hours (Non-commercial customers only)  
Fri. 8 a.m. to Noon; Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



(863) 284-4319



5 Environmental Loop S., Winter Haven, FL



[www.polkwastewise.net](http://www.polkwastewise.net)

# Common Household Hazardous Wastes

The following are accepted for processing and disposal at Waste & Recycling's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at no additional cost to Polk County residents.



## AUTO & BOAT BATTERIES

Bring old car batteries to the HHW facility or check with local "buy-back" centers for recycling. By law, all stores should accept and recycle old car batteries when a new one is purchased.



## BATTERIES (HOUSEHOLD)

Common household alkaline batteries, such as As, Cs and Ds, no longer contain mercury and are safe to dispose of with regular garbage. Rechargeable batteries still contain toxins and need to be recycled. Local electronic stores also offer disposal options.



## FUEL & GAS CYLINDERS

Containers of fuel or gas up to 5 gallons can be taken to the HHW facility. Propane and other flammable gases can cause explosions or fires when disposed in the garbage and are accepted by the HHW facility.



## FILTERS, USED OIL & ANTIFREEZE

Motor oil is banned from landfill disposal so it cannot be placed in your garbage. Motor oil can contaminate water supplies if improperly disposed. County residents should recycle used motor oil and antifreeze at the HHW facility.



## PESTICIDES

Use as directed or take to the HHW facility. Empty pesticide containers can be thrown away with your household garbage.



## MERCURY & FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

Fluorescent tubes and CFL's contain small amounts of mercury, which need to be disposed of through the HHW facility. Check with local home improvement stores for additional disposal options.



## FLARES

Marine and roadside flares can cause fires when disposed of in the garbage. Take to the HHW facility.



## PAINT

Take to a HHW drop-off area (limit to 20 gallons a year). Alternatively, latex paint can be dried out and thrown away with your household garbage. Remove lid and add sand, cat litter or sawdust to absorb liquid. Leave uncovered in garbage.



## USED COOKING OIL

Used cooking oil can harm septic tanks and clog sewers. It can also be used to make a variety of products including new fuel. Take to the HHW facility.