

Hazardous Wastes

When hazardous products need to be disposed of, they become wastes.

Some wastes are defined as a hazardous waste because they appear on one of the four hazardous wastes lists (F-list, K-list, P-list, or U-list), or exhibits at least one of four characteristics-ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.

It is important to remember that disposing of hazardous wastes is not the same as disposing of regular rubbish.

If the hazardous wastes end up in the landfill, they can leach into the groundwater that many of us drink.

If the hazardous wastes go to the incinerator, heavy metals and other toxins can be emitted into the air.

If the hazardous wastes are left outdoors, they can be exposed to rainfall. That rainfall will carry the contaminants to the nearest storm drain, which leads untreated into the ocean or streams. It is important that we take care of our ocean now and prevent any further contamination.



Proper Disposal

Before disposing of a hazardous waste products, consider whether you can use up the products, reuse them, or give the products to someone else.

On Oahu, household hazardous wastes are collected free of charge by the City and County of Honolulu. Call 768-3201 to set up an appointment.

Businesses must hire a certified hazardous waste hauler. Common hazardous waste products can be recycled such as used oil, batteries, and solvents. Ensure that all hazardous wastes are stored properly in covered, structurally sound containers labeled either with the words “hazardous waste” and the date the waste was first placed in the container. If the product is going to be recycled, label the container with the product name, such as “used oil.” Ensure that hazardous waste storage time and volume limits are not exceeded as described in 40 CFR 262.

Always keep spill cleanup materials near the hazardous waste storage, which should include absorbents. Do not clean spills by washing them away with water, ensure that all spills are absorbed, containerized, and then properly disposed of.



State of Hawaii
Department of Transportation
Airports Division

This is a public service message brought to you by the **Honolulu International Airport**. As regulated by federal laws, the Storm Water Management Program must include public information strategies to encourage the prevention of storm drain pollution. For more brochures or information, please visit HNL’s Storm Water Management website at:

<http://www6.hawaii.gov/dot/airports/hnl/swm/index.htm>.

Hazardous Materials and Waste Disposal



State of Hawaii,
Department of
Transportation,
Airports Division



Hazardous Materials

Hazardous products can be found both in the home as well as at your business. Common hazardous items can be purchased at the local supermarket or hardware store, however, that does not mean that the product is safe for you, your family, or the environment.

Some common hazardous products used both in the workplace and at home are:

- Paints, stains, and sealers
- Motor oil and antifreeze
- Paint strippers and paint thinners
- Cleaning agents and solvents
- Gasoline, kerosene, and propane
- Batteries
- Mercury thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent lamps
- Pesticides

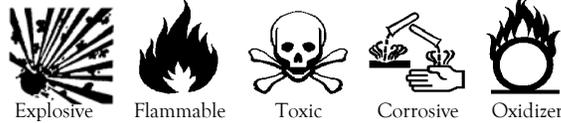
The Department of Health (DOH) regulates businesses concerning the proper storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals, while the same products used in households are generally exempt from regulation. However, it is important for everyone to manage hazardous chemicals and wastes properly so that they do not pollute our land and water resources.



Safety Precautions

When handling hazardous products either at home or at the workplace, safety precautions should be followed to ensure that your health as well as the environment is protected.

- ✓ Always read the label of any household product. The label can contain key words or symbols to let you know the severity of the product's hazard.



- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's instructions listed on the label.
- ✓ Use products in well ventilated areas, such as outdoors or indoors with windows open and fans to draw away harmful vapors.
- ✓ Wear the proper protective equipment (PPE) such as goggles, gloves (rubber or latex), and long sleeve shirt and pants to cover any exposed skin.

When the products are not being utilized it is important that they are stored properly.

- ✓ Store all hazardous products in a secure area, away from potential sources of heat, sparks, or flames.
- ✓ Store flammable products in tight containers in well ventilated areas.
- ✓ Store products in their original containers whenever possible.
- ✓ Should you need to store a product in a different container, ensure that it is clearly labeled with the product name and instructions for use.



Reducing Use

The best way to reduce the risk from hazardous products to you and the environment is by using less of them. There are two ways to reduce your use of hazardous products:

1. **Use less of the product** - buy only what you need, use all the product, or give the excess to someone who will use it.
2. **Choose a safer, less-hazardous product**

Some safer products can be substituted to complete a job as well as the hazardous products.

Fluorescent lights often contain measurable amounts of mercury; buy the green tipped bulbs which contain less mercury.



Auto parts degreasers are usually made of petroleum, which are flammable and have toxic fumes. Try citrus-based degreasers or steam clean the engine instead.

Oil-based paints contain petroleum that are flammable and can harm marine life, choose water-based or latex paints because they are safer and need only water for clean-up.

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