

Lake Erie: DON'T WASTE IT!

Household Hazardous Waste

Local waterways and public health are impacted when household hazardous waste is disposed of incorrectly.

What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Many products in our homes and garages are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive and are called household hazardous waste. Products such as pesticides, paints, cleaners, oils, automotive fluids, thinners/strippers, acids/bases, and batteries require special care when disposing of them and can catch fire, react or explode under certain circumstances.



Why are these wastes a problem?

Household hazardous waste poses many dangers ranging from personal exposure to the substances during use, to contamination of water resources from improper disposal of chemicals down a storm drain or into a ditch where they are transported directly to aquatic ecosystems like Lake Erie. Or when incorrectly disposed of in the garbage, sanitation workers could get injured or chemical reactions can take place in the garbage truck or landfill.



What should I do with household hazardous waste?

- Handle HHW carefully to avoid injury to yourself or the environment
- Store wastes in their original container with the labels intact
- Save HHW for a **household hazardous waste collection program** which in Cuyahoga County is specific to your community. Call your community Service Department for details or go to CuyahogaRecycles.org/hazardous_waste for more information.

How can I create a toxic free home?

- Use the least hazardous products available
- **Attend a Green Cleaning workshop** to learn how to replace toxic cleaning and landscaping products with safer, cheaper alternatives from everyday household ingredients (offered by Cuyahoga SWCD).

Toxic.Free.Home.



Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

Courtesy of LA County DPW website