



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN YOUR HOUSE

A guide to common household hazardous waste

What are hazardous household materials?

A hazardous household material is considered as a substance with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous materials may include explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, corrosive or toxic substances, and radioactive materials. Products can be harmless when alone, but can become hazardous when mixed with other products.



Many products that are considered hazardous are currently stored in your garage, basement, bathroom or kitchen.

Automotive

Batteries
Anti-freeze
Brake Fluid
Waste Oil
Oil soaked rags

Art and Hobby Supplies

Glues
Spray Fixatives
Photography Chemicals
Matting Adhesives

Home Maintenance

Varnishes
Oil-based Paints
Furniture Polish
Furniture Refinishers
Pool Chemicals
Linseed Oil

Household Products

Lamp Oil
Oven Cleaners
Waxes and Cleaners
Window Cleaner
Drain Cleaner
Bleach
Ammonia

Pesticides

Mothballs and Flakes
Insecticides
Fungicides
Herbicides
Rodenticides (Mouse baits)

Solvents

Kerosene
Charcoal lighter
Turpentine
Nail Polish Remover
Thinners
Spot Remover
Degreasers

Disposal Tips

Don't

- Don't pour products down the drain.
- Don't pout them on the ground or into a pond, river, or lake.
- Don't burn them, or expose them to heat.
- Don't bury them.
- Don't dispose of them in the trash.

Do

- Safely bring them to a local home hazardous waste collection site.
- Recycle products such as used motor oil whenever possible.
- Save unused hazardous waste products. Store them in a safe, dry location away from children.

Where to dispose of your household hazardous waste in Rhode Island

STATE LAW PROHIBITS THE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE REGULAR TRASH. Bring all of your household hazardous waste to the Eco-Depot, a free drop-off, at the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's facility at the Central Landfill in Johnston, R.I.

Call 942-1430 x241 to schedule an appointment or visit www.rirrc.org for more information.



How Can I Recycle Used Oil?

- Drain used oil into a suitable container with a tight-fitting cap/lid.
- Never mix used motor oil with any other liquids, such as: antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, solvents, cooking oil, or water.
- Take the used oil to the Oil Recycling Facility in your community.
- The used oil will be picked up for refining or reprocessing.

Where Can I Recycle Used Oil?

Your city or town may offer special motor oil instructions for its residents. Click [HERE](#) to view the list of city/towns that provide recycling/disposal services for household hazardous waste including oil. For any amount, you can also call Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's Eco-Depot Program for a FREE appointment at 942-1430 ext. 241 or make an appointment online.

5 STEPS ON HOW TO CLEAN UP A SPILL

Before you attempt to clean up a spill ensure that you have an understanding of the product and the potential risks associated. If you are unsure what the product is or feel as if you cannot clean up the spill on your own please contact your local fire department. For additional information on known products please visit the manufactures websites.

1. Try to contain the spill to a small area, keeping in mind your safety.
2. Some spills can be absorbed using a particle absorbent such as cat litter. Absorbent pads can also be used to clean up a spill, which can be found at your local hardware store.
3. Once the spill has been absorbed, place the contaminated pads or absorbent material in a trash bag and plastic bin.
4. Wash the floor after the spill has been absorbed and the contaminated material has been completely removed.
5. If it is a large volume of waste (over 5 pounds), put it into a container, seal it, and label it with the product name and other pertinent information (quantity and mixture). Save for a collection/disposal day.



THE DANGERS OF MERCURY

What is mercury?

Mercury is a metal which conducts electricity. At room temperature mercury is a liquid (silver colored) and combines easily with other metals. Because of these properties, mercury has been used in many household, medical and industrial products.

Impacts of Mercury Exposure

Although mercury performs many useful functions in our workplaces and homes, it is toxic. Mercury acts as a poison to the central nervous system, and can cause health issues. Exposure to mercury may cause irritation to the eyes, skin, and stomach; cough, chest pain, or difficulty breathing, insomnia, irritability, indecision, headache, weakness or exhaustion, and weight loss.

Household Items That May Contain Mercury

Electrical switches and relays - old chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump pumps, electric space heaters, clothes irons, silent light switches and automatic car hood & trunk lights.

Fluorescent bulbs and other mercury vapor lighting - HID (high intensity discharge), metal halide, high pressure sodium and neon bulbs (environmentally preferable because they are more energy-efficient).

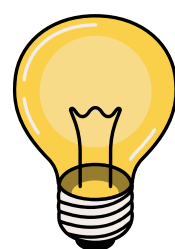
Old Gauges - barometers, manometers, blood pressure and vacuum gauges.

Old Thermostats - contains mercury inside the sealed glass "tilt switch"

Thermometers - typically contain about ½ gram of Mercury. (non-mercury alternatives are available).

Vintage toys & games - toy drawing screens and mercury maze games

Many mercury products have been replaced with safer alternatives. If there is a silver metallic colored liquid in any of these household items, it most likely contains mercury.

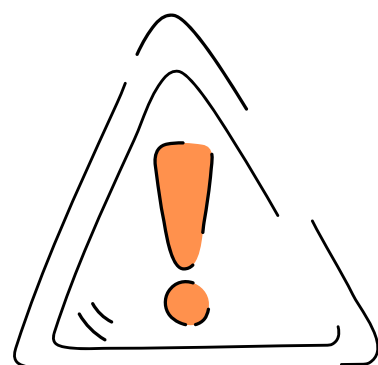


Use Caution Around Mercury

- Never break open products that contain mercury.
- Do not pour mercury down the drain.
- Never burn mercury-containing products.
- Do not put mercury-containing products in the trash.
- Always properly recycle mercury-containing products at a household hazardous waste collection.

If You Have a Mercury Spill

- Ventilate and evacuate room where spill occurred.
- Never try to vacuum up spilled mercury, the vacuum will also become contaminated. This also goes for anything that may come in contact with mercury.
- **Notify your local fire department and RI DEM.**



Reminders: Mercury is easily dispersed and can roll down into small cracks between your floor boards (DO NOT TRY TO SWEEP MERCURY UP).



Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management
Office of Emergency Response



TO REPORT AN OIL OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE

**If you have a mercury spill, please report it:
DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:00)
- Call (401) 222-1360
or
ANYTIME, ANY EMERGENCY - Call (401) 222-3070
at the DEM Hot-line**

For more information
about our office
please scan the QR
code.



You can also visit the RI DEM website at:
<https://dem.ri.gov/>