

Household Hazardous Waste in RI (HHW)



We all have hazardous waste lurking in our homes-oven cleaner, window cleaner, flea collars, pool chemicals, nail polish remover, oil based paint in rusty old paint cans. Anything that has a skull and crossbones on the label, or the words "poison", "hazardous", "danger", or cautions you to properly ventilate the area while cleaning, is household hazardous waste and must be **not** be thrown in with your trash.

Rhode Island's Disposal Solution

RI Resource Recovery Corporation's (RIRRC) Eco-Depot is a free service for Rhode Island residents who wish to dispose of their household hazardous waste safely and properly. The service is available by appointment only. For a list of collection dates and other pertinent information, including the types of waste Eco-Depot accepts, please click on: <http://www.rirrc.org/resident/household-hazardous-waste/>

The Eco-Depot is located at the Central Landfill in Johnston, RI **only** accepts special residential waste such as:

- Paint
- insecticides
- drain cleaner
- spot remover
- household batteries
- spent fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing items
- oven cleaner
- used motor oil and oil filters
- empty propane tanks, etc.

If the product you wish to dispose of is marked DANGER or POISON, this indicates that it is toxic, corrosive or extremely flammable. WARNING or CAUTION indicates that the product is slightly toxic. Disposal of all of these products poses a threat to the environment if not handled correctly.

Please bring hazardous waste in the original container or label all products you bring to the depot. Never mix hazardous wastes.

MERCURY- CONTAINING DEVICES

What to do with fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, thermostats?

Fluorescent light bulbs and other mercury-containing items can be disposed of by making an appointment for a free Household Hazardous Waste collection program at www.rirrc.org/ecodepot, or by calling 942-1430 x 241. If you are looking to dispose of Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (the "spiral" or "twisty" CFL bulbs) in particular, [Home Depot](#) and [Lowe's](#) also have convenient collections for these at all of their stores. Please note that they only want the CFLs; regular-sized florescent light bulbs should come to the Eco Depot at RIRRC.

What to do with Single Use Batteries?

Single-use batteries, including alkaline and carbon-zinc types, are not classified as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and are safe for disposal in the trash. Prior to 1996, some single-use batteries did contain mercury, but this is no longer the case. In contrast to rechargeable batteries (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Ni-Zn, Li, Li-Ion, and Pb from toys, cell phones, laptops, and other electronics) which should be brought to an [Eco-Depot collection](#), the Central Landfill can safely accept single-use batteries for disposal.

Recycling options for single-use batteries, though on the rise, still remain limited. There are a handful of mail-in recycling programs in the U.S., all which require a fee. By the end of 2010, www.Earth911.com, a clearinghouse for recycling options, listed 16 mail-in programs. Of the 16, we have further listed those companies below that have provided additional information on their recycling process. This list shows what they are able to reclaim, and provides the website and phone number for each company. Please note that we do not endorse any one of these companies over another, or over any other companies not listed here.

Mail-in Program / Website	What is Reclaimed?	Phone
Air Cycle Corp.	manganese, zinc	708-223-1038
All Lamp Recycling, LLC	zinc	417-782-7244
Battery Solutions iRecycle Kit	paper, plastic, steel, and zinc manganese	248-446-5628
Big Green Box	zinc, manganese, steel	714-876-2676
LEI	zinc, steel	985-878-8210

Latex & Other Water- based Paints

Unlike oil-based paints that require special handling through RIRRC's [free Eco-Depot program](#), latex and other water-based paints are not considered hazardous waste.

If your cans are still near-full, you may want to first try giving them away. You can post them on the "FREE" section of [Craigslist](#) or use [RIRRC's free exchange site](#).

If a free exchange isn't an option, these paints are safe for disposal as regular household trash, but need to be hardened for the safety of workers and equipment. If there isn't too much paint left, just leave it out with the lid off and it will dry without having to add anything. You can actually scoop out the paint, place it in the trash, and recycle the latex paint can in your recycling bin. If there is a significant amount left, you can do this with paint hardener (about \$2 at a home improvement store), saw dust, or even kitty litter.