



Hazardous waste in your home

Some commonly used household items are potentially hazardous to the environment due to their corrosive, flammable or reactive properties. These can include household cleaners, aerosol sprays, automotive supplies (including oil), paints and thinners, batteries, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, and pesticides.

If misused, accidentally spilled or not disposed of properly, they can cause harm to the environment. Below are some tips regarding safe use, handling, storage and disposal of some common household items.

Tips for the safe use, handling and storage of household items

- Purchase the smallest pack or bottle size which best meets your needs to avoid having to store unused chemicals.
- Ensure the label on the container is intact.
- Read the label before using the chemical and follow the instructions. Pay particular attention to safety precautions.
- Do not use date-expired chemicals.
- Handle chemicals in a well ventilated area.
- Do not prepare chemical mixes in areas where an accidental spill could run into the stormwater drain.
- Only prepare the volume of spray mix necessary to complete the task to avoid having to dispose of unused portions.
- Wash hands and remove protective clothing prior to eating or drinking.
- Keep chemicals only in original containers, closed tightly and labelled.
- Check chemical containers frequently for leaks, deterioration and tears or loose lids.
- Take precautions against potential fire hazards when using flammable, hazardous chemicals.
- Store pesticides, pool chemicals and flammable chemicals in a storage shed away from the house. Store other chemicals such as cleaning agents in a locked cupboard out of the reach of children. Do not store any chemicals near food storage areas.
- Some chemicals must not be stored together (check the label).

Banned chemicals

The following chemicals are either banned or require a permit to use: 2,4,5-T, Ethylene dibromide, Arsenic compounds, Cyhexatin, Tributyltin, Phenyl mercuric acetate, DDT, Heptachlor, Endrin, Lindane, Chlordane, Aldrin, Chlordimeform and Sodium fluoracetate(1080). If you suspect you may have one of these chemicals, please contact the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 for advice on disposal.

Disposal old unwanted non-banned household chemicals

Household chemicals can be dropped off free of charge at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. Businesses should contact the EPA for advice.

Alternatives to household chemicals

For information on simple ways to reduce the use of chemicals in your home and garden visit the Safer Solutions website at www.safersolutions.org.au

Recycling and disposal of household items

The Planet Ark website provides information on where to drop off items for recycling in your area at www.recyclingnearyou.com.au.

Recycling and disposal options are listed in the table on the back page.



Chemical	Contact	Phone
Pesticides (unwanted, banned or out of date), Solvents, Cleaning agents/detergents, Paint thinners, Paint containing lead, Printing and photographic chemicals – laboratory waste	Free drop off area at Mugga Lane TAMS (by calling Canberra Connect)	13 22 81
Fire extinguishers (since 1996, it has been illegal to have yellow BCF extinguishers, except on aircraft)	Your local fire brigade Collection bins inside landfill gates	
Mobile phone batteries	Return to local mobile phone outlets and selected ANZ branches and regional recycling centres	
Alkaline rechargeable batteries	Battery World Phillip Aldis stores	6282 9884
Car batteries	Collection area at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres MetalMart Fyshwick Sims Metals Hume Access Recycling Fyshwick	6239 2422 1800 727 276 6280 9920
Used motor oil and heating oil	Oil recycling depot at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres Transpacific Nationwide Oil	6297 8185 0422 611 343
Cooking Oil	Collection areas at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres AUSCOL Waste Away	1300 629 476 6260 1288
Petrol (old and used)	Hill & Co, 15 Barrier St Fyshwick (8L limit)	1300 305 136
Brake fluid (householder quantities)	Local service station Collection areas at Mugga Lane	13 22 81
Gas cylinders	Collection area at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres	
Radioactive material excluding domestic smoke detectors	Radiation Safety Section, Health Directorate	6205 1700
Domestic smoke detectors	EPA (by calling Canberra Connect)	13 22 81
Unwanted medicines and other pharmaceuticals	Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM) or you Local chemist	1300 650 835 or returnmed.com.au
Paint – dried	Crush and place in household recycling bin or normal garbage	
Paint – liquid	Collection area at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres (10L limit)	
Printer and photocopier cartridges	Planet Ark Or your local Post Office	1800 242 473 or planetark.com.au/cartridges
Used compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes (household quantities)	Collection areas at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres.	ACT NOWaste 13 22 81

For more information

Contact the EPA by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or email environment.protection@act.gov.au