

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ALTERNATIVES

15% percent of the materials Americans throw away each year can be classified as HAZARDOUS. These materials include products used in homes every day, but can pose a danger to plants, animals, and people. Hazardous products can be solid, liquid, or gaseous and will have certain signal words on the label.

The "CANS" and "SHOULD"

Hazardous materials must be disposed of properly to avoid contamination of the soil and water and to avoid injury, especially to people and animals.

- **Used Oil and Oil Filters** can be dropped off for recycling at the Lookout Transfer Station at 1601 Lookout Drive, open from 8am until 4:30pm, Monday through Saturday.
- **Home Chemical Collection Center:** This permanent collection facility is designed for collection of hazardous materials. Located at 11234 Plano Rd. in Dallas, it is in very close proximity to Richardson. For directions or hours of operation call (214) 553-1765.

The "CANNOTS" and "SHOULD NOTS"

- The City of Richardson Solid Waste Crews cannot collect any material that is or is suspected to be hazardous.
- Hazardous materials should not be poured down the drain, dumped in a storm drain, or thrown into a waterway. (To do so is a violation of the Texas Litter Abatement Act and is punishable under law. To help stop illegal dumping, please call North Central Texas at 1-888-335-DUMP [3867], accessible 24 hours a day.)

WHAT TO DO WITH PAINT

The material most frequently turned in at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center is paint. Like all other hazardous products in the home, the goal is to dispose of paint without causing harm to the environment or to other people. With this in mind, please consider the following options for any paint you may have at home.

1. When buying paint, be careful not to buy more than you will use. Buying smaller amounts may seem slightly more expensive, but you will pay the difference and then some later in disposal fees or environmental damage if it is dumped improperly.
2. If you have unused paint left over, try to find a way to use it. Paint inside drawers and closets at home; dog houses; and garage walls. Put on more than one coat. Another option is to try to find someone else who can use the paint, such as churches, local theaters, shelters, schools (especially drama departments), not-for-profit organizations, or students going off to college might use it to paint dormitories or apartments.
3. **If you must dispose of paint**, your options include:
 - a. The Home Chemical Collection Center in Dallas collects oil-based paint. For directions and hours of operation, call 214-553-1765.
 - b. If it is water-based paint and there is only a little of it left, take the lid off, let it dry out (adding sand or kitty litter will help), and throw it out with the regular trash.

Signal Words of Hazardous Items:

- Caustic
- Caution
- Corrosive
- Danger
- Flammable
- Ignitable
- Reactive
- Toxic
- Volatile
- Warning

Examples of Hazardous Material

- Automotive Fluids
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Gasoline
- Herbicides
- Kerosene
- Oil-based paint
- Oil Filters
- Pesticides
- Pool Chemicals
- Water based Paint

The list above includes common household items that are hazardous and cannot be set out for City Solid Waste Crews to collect.



If there are any questions about whether or not a material is hazardous, check with the **City Health Department** at 972-744-4080 or the **Solid Waste Services Division** at 972-744-4407 before setting it out in the trash.

Less Toxic Alternatives



The best way to reduce the amount of hazardous materials in the home is to change shopping habits. Look for products that are labeled as: “Environmentally safe, Biodegradable, Contains No Phosphorus, Non-toxic, or Non-corrosive”.

Another alternative is to use “make-it-yourself” formulas for household cleaning, etcetera. Using common household ingredients, it is possible to make non-toxic alternatives for everything from silver polish to flea repellent and drain openers.

Homemade and Non-hazardous Alternatives

- **Aerosols** - Choose non-aerosol brands, pump sprays, roll-ons, or liquids.
- **Air fresheners** - Simmer white cloves or cinnamon sticks and citrus juices OR set out a cotton ball saturated with pure vanilla.
- **Ants** - Sprinkle cinnamon, red chili pepper, cream of tartar, dried mint, and salt (1/2 teaspoon of each).
- **Bleach** - use Borax
- **Brass Polish** - Mix ½ teaspoon salt and ½ cup white vinegar to make a paste. Apply, let stand 15 minutes to an hour, wash in hot suds.
- **Carpet Deodorizer** - Sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum.
- **Carpet Stains** - Use club soda
- **Cat litter** - For odor control, add ¼ cup baking soda.
- **Cleaners** - 1-teaspoon liquid soap, 1-teaspoon borax, a squeeze of lemon, and 1-quart water.
- **Cleaning Disposables** - Grind used lemons in the disposal OR pour in baking soda.
- **Crayon on washable painted walls** - Baking soda, wet sponge; scrub gently.
- **Drain openers** - Use a plunger and ½ cup vinegar with 1-cup baking soda. Cover tightly for 1 minute and flush with boiling water.
- **Fertilizer** - Use compost
- **Fleas** - A sponge soaked in oil of lavender or oil of cloves set out in a room.
- **Floor Cleaners** - 1-cup vinegar to 2 gallons of water.
- **Furniture Polish** - 3 parts olive oil to 1 part vinegar.
- **Houseplant Insecticide** - Wash leaves with soapy water and rinse.

- **Ink Stains** - Rub with non-aerosol hairspray OR mix 1/3 cup of white vinegar and 2/3 cup of warm water. Apply small amount to stain and blot until no more stain will come out.
- **Toilet Cleaner** - Drop one denture tablet, allow to foam for five minutes and flush or use vinegar.
- **Tub & Tile Cleaner** - Baking soda & vinegar
- **Laundry starch** - 2 tbsp. Cornstarch, 1-pint cold water. Dissolve cornstarch in water and place solution in spray bottle.
- **Mildew** - Wash shower curtains along with a towel in ½ cup soap and ½ cup baking soda, adding 1 cup white vinegar to rinse cycle.
- **Moths** - Dried lemon peel, bay leaves, or cedar chips
- **Roaches** - Boric acid
- **Silver Polish** - Use toothpaste or water and baking soda.
- **Sink cleaners** - Salt is an excellent scouring agent and it disinfects. Use Borax or baking soda to clean as well.

