

## Oil-based and Latex Paint

Oil-based paint is Hazardous Waste that needs to be disposed of at the RCC. Latex paint, however, is a water-based paint and can be disposed of safely at home. Before disposing of any paint, check the label for *mercury*. Some latex manufactured before 1979 contained mercury, which is hazardous to the environment; it can be taken to the RCC for disposal.

The RCC will also accept usable non-mercury latex paint for redistribution. Be sure the paint is in good condition. Call the RCC to make an appointment to drop off paint. This program runs from April through Mid-November. Free latex paint may be available on a first come, first serve basis. Call for details.

### Directions to safely dispose of non-mercury latex paint:

- For small amounts of paint, remove lid from container, allow paint to air-dry thoroughly. Dispose of the paint can in regular refuse container. Leave the lid off so collection crews can verify that the can contains dried paint.
- For larger amounts stir in equal amounts clay-based cat litter or “oil dry” to make the mixture thick and difficult to stir.  
—or—
- In a well ventilated area (away from children, pregnant women, and pets)

pour small amounts of paint onto layers of newspaper in a cardboard box. Allow the layers to dry. Add more paper and more paint. Repeat the process until the container is empty. Leave the lid off of the container and place the box and paint container with regular refuse.

## Alternatives to HHMs

HHM	Alternatives
Aerosol Products	Spray pump products
Antifreeze	Recycled antifreeze
Chlorine Bleach	Non-chlorine bleach
De-greasers containing organic solvents	Citrus-based cleaners or washing soda and water
Household cleaner	Vinegar and water
Lye-based oven cleaner	Citrus-based oven cleaners, self-cleaning ovens, or baking soda paste
Moth Balls	Rosemary, mint, thyme, whole cloves, lavender, lemon, cedar shavings
Virgin motor oil	Re-refined oil

### Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG)

Qualifying small businesses and organizations are eligible to use the RCC program for a fee. Appointments are necessary. Please call 589-1720 for more information. Some restrictions apply.

Regional Collection Center  
c/o D.M.A.S.W.A  
925 Kerper Court  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

# Regional Collection Center

for household hazardous materials

(563) 589-1720



## Household Hazardous Materials (HHMs)

HHMs are substances that are:

<i>Corrosive</i>	Damage skin, corrode metal
<i>Flammable</i>	Ignite easily
<i>Toxic</i>	Poisonous
<i>Reactive</i>	React violently when exposed to heat, shock, or other chemicals

Every day Iowans improperly dispose of HHMs in landfills, drains, and storm sewers. Waste streams contain hundreds of tons of these materials. HHMs are the most hazardous segment of these streams. When HHMs are disposed of improperly on the ground or even in a sanitary landfill, these products may leach into our groundwater. These materials mix in the water table, potentially contaminating drinking water.

### HHM Home Management

As a consumer there are many things you can do to reduce the amount of HHMs that need to be disposed of each year

- Purchase only the quantity of product you will need for a job. Use it according to the manufacturer's label.

- Always store materials in their original containers.
- If you have material you cannot use up, give away, or safely manage at home, dispose of it at the Regional Collection Center (RCC).

### HHMs Handled by the RCC

The following are examples of HHMs and should be taken to the Regional Collection Center at the Dubuque Metro Landfill.

Adhesives	Lacquers
Antifreeze	Mercury switches
Art Supplies	Mothballs
Brake fluid	Oil-based paints
Bug Spray	PCB capacitors
Chemistry sets	Ballasts
De-greasers	Pesticides
Fertilizers	Polishes/Waxes
Floor care products	Pool Chemicals
Fluorescent bulbs	Solvents
Fuel additives	Spot/stain removers
Gasoline	Tar/sealers
Glue	Thinners
Kerosene	Unlabeled chemicals
Thermometers	Spray paint

**You must make an appointment to dispose of these materials, 589-1720. Disposal is FREE to Dubuque and Delaware County households and farms. The RCC is located at the Dubuque Metro Landfill, 14501 HWY 20 West. Call if you have questions regarding the disposal of anything you suspect to be an HHM.**

### Other HHMs and Disposal Options

#### *Asbestos*

Asbestos may be disposed of at the landfill. Asbestos must be wet before being handled. Double-bag the wet materials. You must make an appointment with the landfill scale house, 557-8220. Fee for disposal.

#### *Batteries*

Alkaline batteries are not considered hazardous and can be disposed of with refuse. Lead-acid batteries can be taken to any battery retailer. Many batteries, including hearing aid and watch batteries, can be dropped off for recycling at the place of purchase, or the RCC. Please ask retailer upon purchase.

#### *Fluorescent Bulbs*

Businesses are required by Iowa law to treat fluorescent bulbs as hazardous waste. Hazardous materials contractors and the RCC charge a fee for this service. Households may bring fluorescent tubes to the RCC free of charge. Please make an appointment.

#### *Lead Paint*

Contact Health Services (589-4181) or Housing Services (589-1724) for information on methods to safely handle lead hazards in your home. Contractors call Housing Services for more information.

#### *Used Motor Oil*

It is illegal to dispose of used motor oil at the landfill. However, oil may be recycled. You may drop off your oil at your local retailer or make an appointment to take it to the RCC. State law requires motor oil retailers to post a sign indicating the nearest recycler.

#### *Sharps*

Lancets & needles used to administer medication require special disposal. The safest way to dispose of sharps is to make an appointment and take them to the RCC. You may also put needles in a sealed rigid container, such as a detergent bottle, and place with refuse. Tape the lid securely and indicate that it contains sharps.

#### *Smoke Detectors*

Ionizing smoke detectors contain a radioactive chip and can be returned to the manufacturer. The RCC does not accept smoke detectors. Photoelectric detectors can be disposed of in regular refuse.

**Visit [www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org) or call the Solid Waste Education Office (588-7933) for information on safe HHM disposal options.**