

Cooperative Extension Service


CTAHR

 College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
 University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii's Pollution Prevention Information

Dec. 2000

HAPPI-Home 5



Think Before You Dump It— Safe Disposal of Hazardous Products

When you dump a can of paint thinner down the drain or throw an old car battery out with the trash, you could be polluting the water supply. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to handle certain types of hazardous wastes. In landfills, these materials can pollute the groundwater, surface water, and air.

You can help protect your environment if you know how to take care of wastes. The chart on pages 2–3 shows you the safest ways to dispose of common hazardous products used around the home or garden. Because products change, be sure to check the product label for specific disposal guidelines, and above all, use common sense!

Contacts

For more information on the safest way to dispose of the products on the chart, contact the Office of Solid Waste Management in the Hawaii Department of Health at the following telephone numbers:

Hawaii	974-4000 ext. 64226
Maui	984-2400 ext. 64226
Kauai	274-3141 ext. 64226
Molokai and Lanai	1-800-468-4644 ext. 64226
Oahu	586-4226

Additional county-specific information is available from your local county hazardous waste management office:

Oahu: City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, 523-4774, or on the Web at <<http://www.opala.org>>

Maui, Molokai, Lanai: Maui County Department of Public Works, 270-7880

Hawaii: Hawaii County Solid Waste Office, 961-8339 for disposal information; Recycle Hawaii, 329-2886 or 961-2676, or on the Web at <<http://www.recyclehawaii.org/what.htm>> for recycling information.

Kauai: Kauai County Solid Waste Office, 241-6880

The table on pages 2–3 is based on information from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Hazardous Waste regulations. The Water Environment Federation assumes no responsibility and disclaims any liability for any injury or damage resulting from the use or effect of any product or information specified in this publication. Copyright 1987 by the Water Environment Federation.

For more information, see HAPPI-Home 4, *Managing hazardous household products*.



This HAPPI document was adapted by Michael Robotham, Carl Evensen, and Linda J. Cox from *Protecting your resources through a farm and home assessment*, produced by the staff of the National Farm•A•Syst/Home•A•Syst Program in Madison, Wisconsin. HAPPI-Home materials are produced by the Hawaii's Pollution Prevention Information (HAPPI) project (Farm•A•Syst/Home•A•Syst for Hawaii) of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR) and the USDA Cooperative Extension Service (USDA-CES). Funding for the program is provided by a U.S. EPA 319(h) grant administered by the Hawaii State Department of Health.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Practices for the Home

Disposal practice (see definitions at bottom of table)

Type of waste	Pour down drain with water	Dispose in sanitary landfill	Dispose in hazardous waste collection only	Recycle if program is available
Kitchen				
Aerosol cans (empty)		**		
Aluminum cleaners	*			
Ammonia based cleaners	*			
Bug sprays			***	
Drain cleaners	*			
Floor care products			***	
Furniture polish			***	
Metal polish with solvent			***	
Window cleaner	*			
Oven cleaner (lye base)		**		
Bathroom				
Alcohol-based lotions (aftershave, perfumes, etc.)	*			
Bathroom cleaners	*			
Depilatories	*			
Disinfectants	*			
Permanent lotions	*			
Hair relaxers	*			
Medicine (expired)	*			
Nail polish (solidified)		**		
Toilet bowl cleaner	*			
Tub and tile cleaners	*			
Garage				
Antifreeze				****
Automatic transmission fluid			***	****
Auto body repair products		**		
Battery acid (or batteries)			***	****
Brake fluid			***	
Car wax with solvent			***	
Diesel fuel			***	****
Fuel oil			***	****
Gasoline			***	****
Kerosene			***	****
Metal polish with solvent			***	
Motor oil			***	****
Other oils			***	
Windshield washer solution	*			
Workshop				
Paint brush cleaner with solvent			***	****
Paint brush cleaner with TSP	*			
Aerosol cans (empty)		**		

Cutting oil			***	
Glue (solvent based)			***	
Glue (water based)	*			
Paint, latex		**		
Paint, oil based			***	
Paint, auto			***	
Paint, model			***	
Paint thinner			***	****
Paint stripper			***	
Paint stripper (lye based)	*			
Primer			***	
Rust remover (with phosphoric acid)	*			
Turpentine			***	****
Varnish			***	****
Wood preservative			***	
Lawns, gardens, and fields				
Fertilizer		**		
Fungicide			***	
Herbicide (weed killer)			***	
Insecticide			***	
Rat poison			***	
Miscellaneous				
Ammunition			***	
Artists' paints, mediums			***	
Dry cleaning solvents			***	****
Fiberglass epoxy			***	
Gun cleaning solvents			***	****
Lighter fluid			***	
Mercury batteries			***	
Moth-balls			***	
Old fire alarms			***	
Photographic chemicals (unmixed)			***	
Photographic chemicals (mixed / diluted)	*			
Shoe polish		**		
Swimming pool acid			***	

* Products that can be poured down the drain with plenty of water. If you have a septic tank, additional caution should be exercised when dumping these items down the drain. In fact, there are certain chemical substances that cannot be used with a septic tank. Read label to determine if a product could damage the septic tank

** Materials that cannot be poured down the drain but can be safely disposed of in a sanitary landfill. Be certain the material is properly contained before it is put out for collection or carried to the landfill.

*** Hazardous wastes that should be saved for a community-wide collection day or given to a licensed hazardous wastes contractor. (Even empty containers should be taken to a licensed contractor if one is available.)

**** Materials that can be recycled if a recycling program is available in your community. If there is no recycling program, encourage local officials to start such a program.