

2025 Spring Newsletter

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven

VT Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation

Vermont's EPR laws require manufacturers to be responsible for the proper disposal of their products.

These products can be disposed of year round, free of charge, at the locations listed below.

Fluorescent Bulbs: VT residents can dispose of mercury containing bulbs at collection sites.

<https://bit.ly/3vaMEVD>

Single-Use & Rechargeable-Batteries: <https://bit.ly/3tbtrRA>

Architectural Paint: <https://www.paintcare.org/>

Electronics and Computers: <https://bit.ly/3cnbNDJ>

Mercury Thermostats: to find a drop off location visit <https://bit.ly/38yeKAa>

Options for Other Items:

Propane Tanks: Swap out at your local retailer. Empty tanks can be taken to a HHW event.

Tires: Return to local retailers and some transfer stations for a disposal fee.

Appliances (refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers, etc.): Check with your local transfer station and scrap metal dealers for options.

Used Waste Oil: Used motor oil is accepted at many local retailers, some transfer stations, and at HHW events.

Prescription Drug Takeback: The Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) sponsors a free national Drug Take-Back. Some police departments provide year-round collection boxes.

For more information, and to find a location near you, visit: <https://takebackday.dea.gov> or <https://bit.ly/4hcnaxz>

SWAC's Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

All solid waste management entities (SWME) in Vermont are required to have a SWIP. This acts as a work plan for the SWMEs. SWAC is rewriting it's SWIP this year and will be seeking public comments. Please watch for updates. SWAC's Current SWIP: <https://rb.gy/dbvgjq>.

Business & School Outreach

SWAC's business outreach assists local businesses and schools with meeting their requirements for solid and hazardous waste under state law.

As a reminder, all schools in Vermont are considered Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) and should have an EPA ID number assigned to them. The link below has more about this requirement and provides a link to necessary forms: <https://rb.gy/2do32q>

HHW Environmental Producer Responsibility Act Passed

Signed in June 2023, Act 58 will require manufacturers of some hazardous waste to contribute to the costs for managing these wastes at their end-of-life. Covered products include:

- Aerosols
- Automotive products
- Fire extinguishers
- Flammable decreasers, lubricants, liquid adhesives
- Furniture strippers
- Glues and adhesives
- Grout cleaners
- Non-Bleach Hazardous cleaners
- Lamp kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Marine, Auto, Traffic, and Road Paints
- Paint thinners, solvents, and removers
- Rust remover
- Tar and bug remover
- Gas cylinders
- Small propane up to one pound

For more information visit: <https://rb.gy/flb470>

For now, small businesses, which may include town offices, garages, and schools may pre-register to dispose of HW at the SWAC hazardous waste collection events. SWAC will need a detailed breakdown of materials to be dropped off. A quote will be given by the HW contractor. Payment is due at time of drop off. Contact us for more information.

What Do I Do With....?

All of us struggle from time to time with the question of what to do with certain unwanted items. In some cases, you may think the item may be too large to take to the transfer station. In other cases, we think it may be hazardous.

Check out our A-Z Guide to Disposal: <http://bit.ly/4h3JhWU>

Eco-Friendly Household Alternatives

Many household products contain hazardous chemicals that can harm the environment and human health. Fortunately, eco-friendly alternatives offer safer solutions without compromising effectiveness. Here are some sustainable substitutes for common household hazardous waste products.

Non-Toxic Cleaners

Instead of harsh chemical cleaners, opt for natural ingredients like vinegar, baking soda, and lemon juice. A simple mix of vinegar and water works as a multi-surface cleaner, while baking soda effectively scrubs sinks and tubs. Castile soap is another excellent all-purpose cleaner that is biodegradable and gentle on surfaces. Essential oils like tea tree and lavender can be added for antimicrobial properties and a pleasant scent.

Green Paint Options

Traditional paints contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that release toxic fumes. Choose low-VOC or VOC-free paints, which are safer for indoor air quality and better for the environment. Milk-based or plant-based paints are other sustainable options that provide excellent coverage without harmful chemicals.

Eco-Friendly Pesticides

Chemical pesticides can be harmful to pets, pollinators, and water supplies. Instead, use natural repellents like neem oil, diatomaceous earth, or a mixture of garlic and water to deter pests safely. Companion planting—growing plants that naturally repel insects—can also be an effective way to protect your garden without using harmful chemicals.

Safer Automotive Products

Motor oil, antifreeze, and car cleaners often contain hazardous substances. Look for biodegradable motor oil and plant-based car wash soaps that reduce pollution.

Rechargeable Batteries

Single-use batteries contribute to toxic waste. Switching to rechargeable batteries reduces hazardous waste and saves money in the long run.

Reusable HVAC Filters

Rather than purchasing disposable HVAC filters, purchase a reusable option that can be cleaned.

Personal Care Products

Many personal care items, such as shampoos, deodorants, and lotions, contain harmful chemicals that wash into waterways. Opt for organic, biodegradable products with minimal packaging. Bar soaps, shampoo bars, and refillable containers help cut down on plastic waste.

By choosing eco-friendly alternatives, you can reduce HHW, minimize environmental impact, and create a healthier home.

New Battery Disposal Regulations

Vermont's new battery stewardship law provides free collection and recycling of rechargeable and single-use batteries less than 25 pounds or having a watt-hour rating of 2,000 watt-hours or less, damaged and defective lithium batteries, and regulates battery-containing products that have easily removeable batteries or are packaged with rechargeable or primary batteries.

More information for solid waste management entities as collection sites under a new battery stewardship program will be coming soon. All information on battery collection under the current program and battery producer requirements are posted on our webpage at: <https://bit.ly/43gNq6X>

Waste Reduction Tips for Events

Reducing waste at events requires thoughtful planning and sustainable practices to minimize environmental impact. By prioritizing waste reduction, events can be both enjoyable and environmentally responsible. Event organizers can implement strategies such as:

- Using reusable or compostable tableware
- Providing clearly labeled recycling and compost bins
- Encouraging digital tickets instead of printed ones
- Sourcing food and beverages from local vendors with minimal packaging
- Providing refill stations for water and beverages



VERMONT STATE LAW LANDFILL BANS



Paints & Stains, Varnish, Thinner



Tires



Waste Oil & Filters



Recyclables



Plastic #1 and #2



Glass jars,
bottles



Aluminum & steel
cans, aluminum foil



Cardboard, mixed
paper, newspaper

Mercury-Added Products



CFLs, mercury switches, thermostats,
lamps, thermometers, etc.

Electronics



Computers and accessories, all phones,
televisions, MP3 players, VCRs/DVDs, etc.

Organics (Compostable Materials)

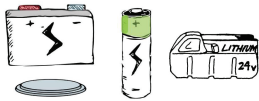


Clean wood, branches, leaf and yard
debris, grass clippings, etc.



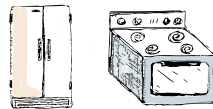
Food scraps, including coffee
grounds, egg shells, etc.

Batteries



Single-Use and Rechargeable

Appliances (White Goods)



Refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers,
dishwashers, freezers, etc.

Dangerous Wastes

These items are regulated and **extremely hazardous** to persons handling solid waste:

**Explosives, Fireworks, Gasoline,
Sharps, Medical Waste,
Pool Chemicals, Propane Cylinders,
Lithium Batteries, Liquid Waste.**

Please use proper disposal methods
or keep out of trash.

Keep these items out of the trash!

Ask attendant for details on recycling
and alternative disposal options.

Waste Management & Prevention Division
(802) 828-1138 | VTrecycles.com

2024 Edition.



HHW Event Schedule

SWAC contracts Republic Services, formerly U.S. Ecology for HHW collection events.

Any SWAC resident can take their HHW to any of the collection events listed. Used waste oil will be accepted at the Rutland and Fair Haven designated collection areas during the events. Several local businesses also accept it for free.

Please give your waste oil to the transfer station attendant.

For more information please visit, www.rutlandcountyswac.org.

Saturday, April 26, 2025

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Rd. Extension

Saturday, October 4, 2025

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Fair Haven Transfer Station, Fair Haven Ave., off West St.

If you live outside of a SWAC town, please visit www.rcswd.com for more information.

SWAC residents may also purchase a non-district permit to utilize the Rutland County Solid Waste (RCSWD) Gleason Road facility and drop off household hazardous waste and trash at current rates, and access to recycling drop-offs. For more information, visit: www.rcswd.com.

These HHW events are hosted by SWAC towns and are expensive endeavors. Reducing the amount of HHW products purchased, giving them away to someone who can use them, or use them for their intended purpose will help reduce the cost to your towns.

**This Newsletter is available in full color
with active weblinks on our website:
<http://www.rutlandcountryswac.org/newsletters>**

HAZARDOUS WASTE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE/CANCELLATION. PLEASE VISIT THE
SWAC WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST
INFORMATION.

2025 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

John Garrison, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Linda McGuire, Shrewsbury, Treasurer

Gail Fallar, Tinmouth, Secretary

Pam Clapp, Administrator

Solid Waste Alliance Communities
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