

2026 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)

Vermont requires all management entities to have a SWIP. SWAC's plan was rewritten to meet updated state laws and officially approved in 2025. This plan will guide SWAC's operations for the next five years. View the full plan at: <https://rb.gy/d-bvgjg>.

Business & School Outreach

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

All schools and businesses must have EPA ID number assigned to them.

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 degreasers & lubricants
- Furniture strippers
- Glues and liquid adhesives
- Grout cleaners
- Non-Bleach Hazardous cleaners
- Lamp kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Marine, Auto, Traffic, and Road Paints
- Paint thinners, solvents, and removers
- Rust remover
- Gas cylinders
- Small propane up to one pound

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

Small businesses, which may include town offices, garages, and schools are considered Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) and may pre-register with their **EPA ID number** 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. For more information: <https://rb.gy/2do32g>

Waste Reduction & Diversion

The most effective way to manage waste is to create less of it in the first place. Simple choices make a big difference. Buy only what you will use and choose durable items instead of disposable ones. When something still has life left, share it, donate it, or give it away. Composting food scraps keeps organic waste out of the trash, and repairing items instead of replacing them helps cut down on unnecessary waste.

Waste diversion keeps valuable materials out of landfills and helps reduce disposal costs for everyone. The less we throw away, the more we conserve resources and lower the long-term impact on our communities.

Many household products labeled as hazardous can be replaced with safer alternatives. Common cleaners like vinegar, baking soda, and castile soap work well for most needs. Low-VOC or VOC-free paints improve indoor air quality, and rechargeable batteries reduce single-use waste. Natural pest control methods are another simple switch.

Using fewer hazardous products means fewer toxins in your home, less risk to children and pets, and lower disposal costs for your town.

What to Do With Food Waste?

Food scraps made up a significant portion of the waste stream, and Vermont's mandate to keep them out of the trash has a real impact. Diverting food waste turns it into compost that supports local soils, farms, and gardens instead of taking up space in a landfill. For households, separating food scraps is one of the simplest ways to make a meaningful difference.

There are a few options for disposing of food waste. Local drop-off sites, are a practical way to manage food scraps. Composting at home, either in a backyard pile or a small indoor system, is the easiest option. Some residents arrange to bring scraps to a neighbor, farm, or community garden that accepts them. Another approach is to feed appropriate food scraps to backyard chickens or other livestock, where allowed. Some haulers will pick up food waste. Check with your local hauler.

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>

What are PFAS?

PFAS are "forever chemicals" found in many stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products, including certain cleaners, clothing, takeout containers, cosmetics, sunscreen, microwave popcorn, candy wrappers, and cookware. These chemicals are highly toxic, known to cause cancer, infertility, immune suppression, and developmental issues, and do not break down in the environment. Never pour these chemicals down the drain.

Why No Drains?

Chemicals poured down the drain pass through treatment processes and are discharged directly into Vermont's rivers or leach into groundwater, contaminating drinking water and soil. PFAS contamination makes wastewater solids (sludge) much more expensive to manage, increasing costs for our towns.

What You Can Do:

Only buy what you need and choose "PFAS-free" products whenever possible. Never pour household chemicals down the drain. Bring them to a SWAC HHW Event for safe management.

For more information about PFAS, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/9mhrnzff>.

Why It Matters - Separating Recycling & Trash

Recycling only works if materials are clean and properly sorted. When trash ends up in recycling loads, it can:

- Damage sorting equipment
- Increase processing costs
- Put workers at risk

Recycling facilities rely on staff who manually remove contaminants from conveyor belts. Items like **plastic bags, propane cylinders, batteries, ammunition, sharps/syringes, and food waste** can cause serious injuries, fires, or explosions. If something is questionable, do not guess. A single "wishcycled" item can ruin an entire load. Taking a few extra seconds at home protects recycling workers and keeps equipment running efficiently.



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.

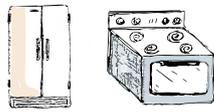


Batteries



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 or business 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 25, 2026

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

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

Saturday, October 3, 2026

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.rutlandcountyswac.org/newsletters>**

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

2026 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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