

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Many of the products we use every day contain toxic ingredients, such as adhesives, auto fluids, batteries, bleach, cleaners, lawn and garden products and paints. These products make your life easier, but you should be careful about what you do with them when they're no longer needed or being used. When they become household hazardous wastes, they have to be handled properly. Discarded the wrong way, they can pose the same risk to your health and the environment that industrial wastes can.

## HOW CAN I ELIMINATE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

You probably can't entirely because most of the toxic products found in your basement or garage or under your kitchen sink help you do important work. Although there are a growing number of non-toxic alternatives, for some products there are no substitutes. You can prevent them from becoming hazardous wastes by purchasing only the amounts you really need, using them according to directions, recycling leftover products whenever possible and finding a safe place to store what can't be recycled until there's a collection day.

## WHAT CHOICES DO I HAVE?

Be an alert consumer. Read labels carefully and choose those products that have the fewest toxic ingredients or none at all. As much as possible, avoid products with the words "caution", "danger", or "warning" on the labels. Low-cost, non-toxic alternatives to many commercial household cleaning products can be found right in your kitchen.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH USED MOTOR OIL?

Take the oil back to where you bought it. Whoever sold it to you is **required** by Massachusetts law to take back up to two gallons of your used oil per day without charge, provided you still have your sales slip. Some stores and gas stations will accept your used oil even if you didn't buy it from them. You may call the **DEP Used Oil Hotline** at 617-556-1022 for help in finding a collection center near you. The Town will accept up to 5 gallons of used waste oil per vehicle on Household Hazardous Waste Day.

## HOW DO I GET RID OF OLD PAINT?

If it can still be used, you may want to donate it to a non-profit group or see if a neighbor needs it. If it is latex paint, you can dry up the paint by adding kitty litter or paint hardener and dispose of it curbside with the lid off or at the Transfer Station during regular business hours. If it is oil-based paint, varnish, shellac, etc., you may bring it to our annual household hazardous waste day collection.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You may call **DEP** at 617-292-5500—their website is [www.mass.gov/hazardous-waste-management](http://www.mass.gov/hazardous-waste-management) or call the Town of Danvers at 978-777-0001 x3011.

