

Household Hazardous Waste



HHW is found under your kitchen sink, in the garage, and in the basement. It's any product that is toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive. This includes many products such as household cleaners, oil-based paints, paint thinners, gasoline, and pesticides. (*Latex paint can be dried and discarded with regular trash as it is not hazardous. If there's a lot, mix with kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded paper.*)

Drop-off: Check to see if your town is participating in a HHW collection. They are held throughout the region each year. If your town is not participating, check with the Regional Planning Commission to see if you can come for a fee or to find out where else you can go.

Medical Waste



Prescription medications, vitamins, over-the-counter medications, and veterinary medications should NEVER be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain—they contaminate our drinking water. If there is no medical waste collection, visit www.nh.gov/medsafety or call NH DES at (603) 271-0660.

Drop-off: Contact your town to see if medical waste will be collected at HHW collection days or at the local police department.

Special Wastes Not Mentioned



Call the Regional Planning Commission at (603) 448-1680 or visit www.uvlsrc.org/waste.html to find the Waste Reduction and Management site and the "What do I do with this?" page.



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission
30 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766
603-448-1680
www.uvlsrc.org



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Special Wastes



It is **illegal** to throw many
special wastes in the trash!

Special Wastes are common hazardous products that, when disposed of improperly, pose risks to human health and the environment. Contact your municipal office to see if they are collecting these items and if there is a fee. If not, other alternatives are provided below.



Electronic Waste

Includes cell phones, computers and peripheral equipment, pagers, radios, VCRs, DVDs, answering machines, microwaves, and TVs. Computer and TV screens can contain several pounds of lead as well as other toxins.



Municipal Collection: Many towns collect electronics for a fee.

Drop-off at these stores: Best Buy takes most electronics that are not over-sized for \$10 each (you get a gift certificate for \$10 in return)—up to two items per day per household. They also take small appliances. Some companies have a take-back program of old computers if you buy a new computer from them.

Compact Fluorescent Lights & Tubes



Compact fluorescents lights, (CFLs), fluorescent tubes, high intensity discharge (some car headlights), metal halide, sodium, and neon lights contain mercury. (Common incandescent light bulbs are not hazardous. They are trash unless your town collects them with glass. Check with them—it depends on the markets.)

Municipal Collection: Towns can use the State contract for collection—much cheaper than at a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection. Contact the NH DES HHW Coordinator at (603) 271-2047 or e-mail hhw@des.nh.gov.

Drop-off at these stores: Home Depot; some Ace and True Value Hardware Stores accept up to six at a time—give them a call.

Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries are found in cameras, cell phones, and power tools. Common household alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt) are trash and are currently not recycled.



Municipal Collection: Towns can provide rechargeable battery recycling at no cost by visiting www.call2recycle.org to join. Free boxes can be filled with rechargeable batteries and cell phones and sent off with no shipping fees at UPS stores or by UPS trucks if you catch them. May not fit in UPS drop boxes.

Drop-off at these stores: Best Buy, Staples, and Home Depot as well as other stores including electronics stores. They also take cell phones and sometimes pagers.

Automotive Waste

Municipal Collection: Some towns collect automotive wastes. Antifreeze collection programs can be started by contacting the NH DES HHW Coordinator at (603) 271-2047 or e-mail hhw@des.nh.gov for list of contractors. Automotive batteries are often recycled. Motor oil and transmission fluid may also be collected for recycling or burning for fuel. Tires may be collected for a fee to pay for processing.



Drop off: If no municipal collection, save antifreeze for household hazardous waste collection days.

Oil, transmission fluid, and automotive batteries are often taken at service stations.

Many auto parts stores and scrap dealers will take automotive batteries.

Other Mercury-Containing Items



Includes some thermometers, gauges, button batteries, switches, thermostats, “light-up” shoes, singing greeting cards, and flashing jewelry.

Municipal Collection: Towns can collect these items in a hard container like a hard plastic bucket with a lid—then take to a HHW collection. Button batteries can also be shipped with the fluorescent bulbs (see fluorescent bulb information). Towns can get a collection bucket for shipping thermostats by contacting the NH DES Pollution Prevention Supervisor at (603) 271-2956 or e-mail nhppp@des.nh.gov.

Drop-off: Save for household hazardous waste collection days. Mercury is silver. Thermometers with red liquid are non-hazardous.