

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Some jobs around the home may require the use of products containing hazardous components. These products may include but, are not limited to, pool chemicals, anti-freeze, paint products, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides. The used or leftover contents of common consumer products but, are not limited to, are known as “household hazardous waste.”



In the United States, 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste is generated per year. The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste in their garage and storage closets. When improperly disposed of, household hazardous waste can create a potential risk to people and the environment which includes our water resources, and ultimately, the water we drink.

This pamphlet describes steps that you can take to reduce the amount of household hazardous waste generated, and ensure that those wastes are safely, stored, handled and disposed of.

What Are the Dangers of Improper Disposal?

Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers; contaminate wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets; and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house.

Although federal law does not require individuals to separate household hazardous waste from trash, the following is recommended:

Move to Reduce And Recycle

One way to reduce the potential concerns associated with household hazardous waste is to take actions that use nonhazardous or less hazardous components to accomplish the task at hand. Individuals can do this by reducing the amount and/or toxicity of the products they choose. This can include learning about the toxicity (*the degree to which a substance can cause harm to our health*) of the products and appropriate alternatives to household items containing hazardous substances.

If you need to use products with hazardous components, use only the amount needed. Leftover materials can be shared with neighbors or donated to a business, charity, or taken to the Hernando County Solid Waste and Recycling Division at 14450 Landfill Road, Brooksville, where hazardous waste is separated by category and is processed for recycling, or safely disposed of.



Recycling is an economical and environmentally sound way to handle some types of household hazardous waste, such as used automobile batteries, and oil. Auto parts stores and service stations frequently accept used automobile batteries and motor oil as a service to their customers. The oil is recycled and 80 percent of the used batteries are recycled.

Safe Management Methods

Because of the potential risks associated with household hazardous wastes, it is important that people always use, store and dispose of materials containing hazardous substances safely:

- Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers. Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers and never remove the labels. Corroding containers, however, should be repackaged and clearly labeled. This will prevent accidental ingestion and also can help protect sanitation workers.
- When leftovers remain, never mix household hazardous waste with other products. Incompatibles may react, ignite, or explode; contaminated household hazardous waste may become unrecyclable.
- Follow any instructions for disposal and use as provided on the label.
- Take household hazardous waste to a local, convenient collection center in the community or to the Hernando County Solid Waste and Recycling Division.



The pyramid shown above illustrates the succession of the most favorable to the least favorable, when it comes to the use of household hazardous products.

Where Can I Learn More?

It is impossible to cover all of the information pertaining to household hazardous waste in a pamphlet. We hope the preceding information will inspire you to further educate yourself on safe management of household hazardous waste.

Much of the information in this pamphlet was contributed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. For further information, related links and or education on household hazardous waste contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/waste

The Benefits

The City of Brooksville thanks you for your consideration of the Safe Steps to Management of Household Hazardous Waste. By putting into practice the information in this pamphlet, you can protect your family, your community and the environment.

Proper disposal of hazardous waste means less contaminants in our land, air, and that valuable, and limited resource – water. Minimizing the entry of pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals, fertilizers into the City's stormwater runoff system that flows directly into our lakes, streams, rivers, springs and the gulf results in providing the community with good, safe drinking water, and swimmable, and fishable waters for all to enjoy.



Weeki Wachee River

It is illegal to dump toxic chemicals or waste into storm drains or anywhere else that may expose waste in the environment.

To report illegal dumping, call your local stormwater management department at:

The City of Brooksville,
Department of Public Works
at: 352-540-3860

For further information contact:

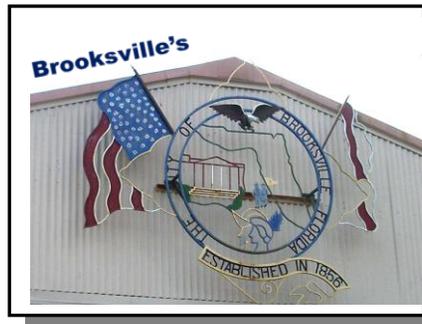
The City of Brooksville, Department of Public Works at:

600 South Brooksville Avenue,
Brooksville, Florida 34601

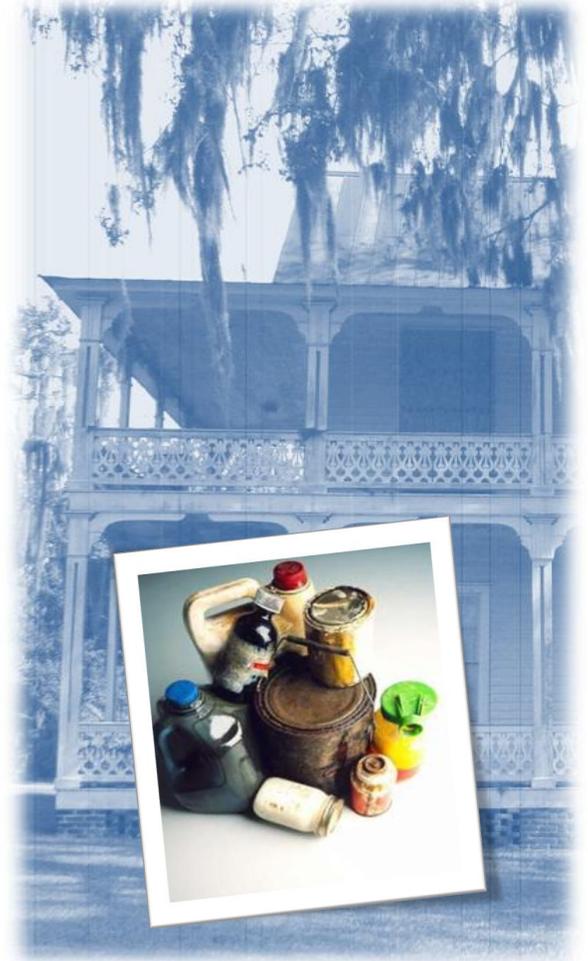
Phone: 352-540-3860 Fax: 352-544-5470

City of Brooksville website:
www.cityofbrooksville.us

Dept. of Public Works



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



**Steps to Safe
Management**