

DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS



The pesticide you're sure was banned years ago.

→ The dirty paint thinner from redecorating the kitchen.

→ The brake fluid for a car you don't own anymore.

→ The unidentified jar of something suspicious looking that was in the basement when you moved in.

It isn't the kind of thing you really want around the house, but most everyone has some. It's "household hazardous waste."

If throwing it in the garbage or pouring it down the drain never felt like the thing to do, you were right! It takes a surprisingly small amount of some common household chemicals to pollute a lot of soil, air, and water.

But there is an alternative to keeping it around the house. Chippewa County holds household chemicals disposal days.

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
RESIDENTS CALL
(906) 632-0525**

What can you bring?

The simpler question to answer is, "What can't I bring?" There are just three kinds of chemical we will not take:

1. No modern latex paints. Disposing of hazardous waste is extremely expensive. Latex paint is less toxic than other paints and can safely be disposed of through a cheaper, simpler

means: Letting it dry out, then land filling it with your regular trash. For more information call 906-632-0525 and ask for our handout on disposing of latex paints

However, latex paint over twenty years old may contain lead. These will be accepted as hazardous waste. Also, if the label says a latex paint is mildew resistant or preservative, it should be handled as hazardous waste because it contains pesticides.

2. **No radioactive materials.** Radioactive materials are found in small quantities in some brands of a few household items (smoke detectors, clocks, lantern wicks dishes). At present there is no proper method for disposing of radioactive materials. You may be able to return these items to the manufacturer. If that isn't possible, please store them until a proper disposal method become available.

Some common examples of materials we do take

include:

- ☞ Pesticides, including weed killers;
- ☞ Cleaners and polishes
- ☞ Aerosols
- ☞ Automotive fluids
- ☞ Oil paints, other finishes, and their thinners
- ☞ Photographic Chemicals
- ☞ Flammables and
- ☞ Adhesives, sealers, and tar
- ☞ Batteries

Is there a fee?

There is no charge to Chippewa County residents to use household chemical disposal

Less Toxic Alternatives

Chippewa County is committed to handling collected materials in the most ecologically sound manner possible. However, even the best available options are extremely expensive and far from ideal.

The best solution to the problem of disposing of hazardous waste is to avoid buying toxic products. If you must buy toxic chemicals, try to buy just the amount you need and use it up.



There are also many less toxic alternatives to commonly used chemicals. If you would like more information, ask us about pamphlets or contact a library or bookstore for one of the many books containing suggestions.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS DISPOSAL DROP-OFF LINE: 906-632-0525