

Notification to the Public on the Identification and Handling of Common Household Waste (HHW) Products



When returning to hurricane-damaged homes and buildings, the following additional information provides general guidance to help address potential hazards in structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Be on the alert for leaking containers and reactive household chemicals, such as caustic drain cleaners and chlorine bleach. Take the following necessary precautions to prevent injury or further damage:

- Keep children and pets away from leaking or spilled chemicals.
- Do not combine chemicals from leaking or damaged containers as this may produce dangerous or violent reactions.
- Do not dump chemicals down drains, storm sewers, or toilets.
- Do not attempt to burn household chemicals.
- Clearly mark and set aside unbroken containers until they can be properly disposed of.
- Leave damaged or unlabeled chemical containers undisturbed whenever possible.

Individuals should exercise caution when disturbing building materials to prevent physical injury or other health effects. Building materials may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos that, when carried by the air, can be breathed in and cause adverse health effects.

Debris-management programs, including household hazardous waste collection and disposal programs are being initiated. These collection areas will be set-up at various locations. It may take days or weeks before all communities have HHW collection areas operational. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Additional information can be found by calling 800-401-1327.

EPA is asking for your help to properly dispose of household products containing potentially hazardous ingredients that might be found in your garage, basement, or other storage area in a home. HHW may also be found anywhere that the water may have moved the items. The EPA urges the public to exercise caution and report concerns. Please bring these items to your curb.

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List of Common HHW Products

Cleaning Products

- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Toilet cleaners
- Tub, tile, shower cleaners
- Bleach (laundry)
- Pool chemicals

Indoor Pesticides

- Ant sprays and baits
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Flea repellents and shampoos
- Bug sprays
- Houseplant insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse and rat poisons and baits

Automotive Products

- Motor oil
- Fuel additives
- Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners
- Air conditioning refrigerants
- Starter fluids
- Automotive batteries
- Transmission and brake fluid
- Antifreeze
- Batteries

Workshop/Painting Supplies

- Adhesives and glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel based paint
- Stains and finishes
- Paint thinners and turpentine
- Paint strippers and removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives and other solvents
- Taxidermy chemicals

Lawn and Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives

Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats or thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs or old ballasts
- Driveway sealer
- Pharmacy items
- Damaged oxygen bottles
- Brake linings

Other Flammable Products

- Propane tanks/home heating oil
- Other compressed gas cylinders
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Diesel fuel/gas/ oil mixtures/gas/oil mix

CAN NOT ACCEPT :

- Complete automobiles, boats, or motor homes.
- Wastes from large commercial facilities (Walmart, HomeDepot, etc.), from regulated facilities, or industrial wastes (ie. dry cleaner fluids or filters).
- Animal carcasses and animal manure.
- Human wastes or other biological (anything blood-related or bodily fluids, home IVs, tubing or dialysis equipment, etc.), sharps or needles, and/or caskets.
- Spoiled food or moldy items.