

Northfield Board of Health

Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste Products

Most homes have hazardous products that are used for cleaning, maintenance, or automotive products. If dumped on the ground or down sewer drains, these hazardous products can contaminate ground and surface water, as well as drinking water supplies. They can also affect the functioning of septic sewer systems when poured down drains or toilets.

Here are some tips from the Franklin County Solid Waste District

- Do not pour leftover products down the sink, storm drains or on the ground.
- Do not wash hazardous products down impervious surfaces such as driveways, streets or sidewalks.
- Never burn, bury or dump leftover oil, pesticides or other hazardous products. Burning may produce hazardous gases and hazardous ash and smoke.
- If a products spills, read the product label for exposure and spill information. Cover the spill with absorbent material such as cat litter, sawdust or sand. Keep the area well ventilated. Wear gloves and protective clothing. Sweep and scoop the material into a container with a lid or double plastic bags. Secure it well. Wash the surface with soap and water, if so advised by the product label. Properly dispose of the waste.

What should you do with leftover hazardous materials? The Solid Waste District coordinates an annual collection event for hazardous wastes that is free for residents. This event is typically held in September. Other groups in the region also host collection events open to Franklin County residents. Disposal is usually free for residents.

The District also operates three “Super Sites” that accept oil-based paint related products (thinners, solvents), stains, varnishes, polyurethane, used motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze. Florescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, and thermostats, and rechargeable batteries are also accepted at these sites. These “Super Sites” are located in Bernardson, Colrain and Conway. Some disposal charges may apply. Call the District at (413) 772-2438 for more information, location, and hours of operation.

Empty containers from hazardous products, including motor oil containers should be discarded in the trash, not the recycling bin. Never reuse chemical product containers.

Water based latex paint can be safely and legally disposed of in regular household garbage if it is completely dried out. Mix the paint with kitty litter or sawdust to speed up the drying process. Empty or dried-out cans of paint should be discarded in the trash, NOT in the recycling bins.

Contact the District at 774-2438 for more information about household hazardous waste disposal options or check the District’s web site at www.FranklinCountyWasteDistrict.org.