



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

What is hazardous waste?

Many products used in the home, garden, garage and hobby shop have hazardous characteristics such as poisonous, combustible, flammable or corrosive. When you decide to discard these products they become household hazardous wastes requiring proper disposal.

Why do I need to dispose of my household hazardous wastes differently from other trash?

Most people think of "hazardous wastes" as wastes generated by industry, but many household products contain the same chemicals found in industrial hazardous wastes. Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes, such as throwing them away with your household trash, dumping them in storm drains, or into sewer or septic systems, can endanger your health, the health of others and the environment.

There are many reasons it makes sense to collect hazardous household wastes separately and keep them out of landfills. Some wastes shouldn't be landfilled because they can be recycled or used as an energy saving fuel. Less hazardous waste in the landfill means less hazardous leachate requiring expensive treatment. The risk of ground and water pollution if leachate leaks from landfills is also reduced. Garbage collectors and landfill workers can be injured by exploding aerosol cans,

splashing chemicals or poisonous fumes created by mixed chemicals. Chemical reactions can also cause fires in garbage carts and collection trucks.

Hazardous wastes should never be poured onto the ground or down storm drains. Products such as motor oil contain toxic chemicals and metals (hydrocarbons, lead, zinc, arsenic, chromium and cadmium) that will contaminate groundwater, drinking water and freshwater wildlife habitats. Other products may also have an adverse effect on water supplies and the environment.

Never put hazardous waste into trash bags or trash cans. Lids can come off causing chemicals to mix and possibly creating dangerous reactions.



Source: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/env/hazwaste/pages/hazwastefaq.aspx>

We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help

Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

Amador Valley Industries

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Barbecue Or Fireplace Ashes?



Fire Departments often respond to fires in garages and backyard sheds, which sometimes spread into the house. In many of these cases, we find that an improper container used to store ashes is the cause of the fire: grocery bags, plastic buckets, plastic trash cans. Sometimes all that is left is a little puddle of plastic the size of a silver dollar under the area of heaviest damage.

Cold ashes many times conceal hot embers within. These embers can smolder for days. When they come in contact with something flammable, fire results.

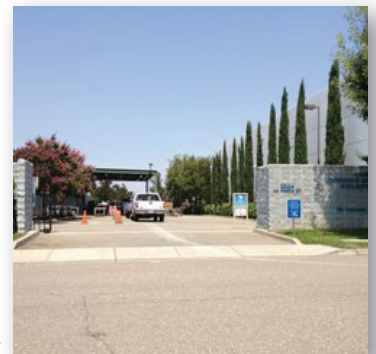
Using the correct container is a surefire cure for ash disposal fires. Grocery bags and aluminum foil will ignite in just a few hours after they have been filled with ashes. Plastic trash containers are absolutely no good for ash removal. Even if the plastic trash can is lidded, the hot embers touch the side of the container, melt through, let in air, and when the air mixes with the melted plastic, a very hot fire quickly results. In many cases, hot ashes dumped on a compost heap will start a fire with the first gust of wind.

Use a metal container with a lid that seals tightly. Place your ashes in the container, put the lid on tightly, and place it away from walls, papers, and other flammables. Let it sit for a week, at least, before you dispose of it. As an added precaution you may want to add some water to the ashes.

Source: <http://rvfire.org/central-fire-monthly-safety-message.htm>.

Livermore Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Many of the products that we have purchased over the years are now legally banned from being thrown in the trash due to their toxic ingredients. The toxins in these products severely harm our well being and the well being of our children if released into the environment. Please join us in protecting our environment by properly disposing of household hazardous waste items in a free and convenient way at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Livermore at 5584 La Ribera Street. It is an easy location to find, from Pleasanton, drive east on highway 580 and exit on to South Vasco Road and make a right on Brisa Street and right again on La Ribera Street to about the middle of the block. Most days you can be in and out of the drive through in about 5-10 minutes and you don't even have to get out of your car, the staff will handle everything.



For Drop-off Center days and hours of operation please call the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at (800) 606-6606 or visit www.household-hazwaste.org for more information.



**HEY,
YOU DONE
WITH THAT?**



FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING. MAKE IT SECOND NATURE. WWW.STOPWASTE.ORG

In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.