

Household Chemical Disposal Guide

This guide is for chemicals at household strength in household quantities. If you have large volume, unknowns, or industrial/commercial strength, contact Clean Sweep at 608-754-6617 ext. 3

- **Is there a less hazardous solution?** A recurring problem might need a closer look at causes. Check on-line for less hazardous options from reputable sources. If you go hazardous . . .
- **Buy a small amount to see if it works,** then . . .
- **Buy only what you will use right away.** Have a plan and stick to it because . . .

Storage can destroy products. Freezing, summer heat, vaporization, reduced potency, container failure/rust, turns to a solid chunk, and so on.

- **Read and follow label instructions.**
- **Protect your lungs, eyes, skin.** Protection and prevention are cheaper than injury.
- **DO NOT MIX** chemicals.
- **Do not mix waste vehicle fluids.** Several fluid types can be recycled year-round locally if kept separate.
- **Store away from children and pets.**
- **Don't let wastes pile up.** It can be a fire or health risk. It's easier and cheaper to safely dispose of small amounts of waste than large amounts all at once.
- **DO NOT put any waste in storm drains.** All storm drains in Rock County go to surface water – none go to treatment plants.
- **Do not burn hazardous chemicals.**

What the label words mean:

CAUTION - slightly toxic if eaten, absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or it causes slight eye or skin irritation.
WARNING - moderately toxic if eaten, absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or it causes moderate eye or skin irritation.
DANGER - highly toxic by at least one route of exposure. It may be corrosive, causing irreversible damage to the skin or eyes.
POISON - highly toxic if eaten, absorbed through the skin, or inhaled. If this is the case, then "POISON" must also be included in red letters on the front panel of the product label.

**Clean Sweep & non-curbside recycling guide - <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/land-conservation-clean-sweep> ;
 Questions & request information - 608-754-6617 ext. 3; linda.pakes@co.rock.wi.us or anne.miller@co.rock.wi.us**

Key: CS = Clean Sweep; D = safe for home drains on septic or city sewer if diluted with lots of water; T = Trash; R = local recycling, see Clean Sweep recycling flier or check with your solid waste service; R\$ = recycling for a small fee; * = See notes.

Material	Disposal	Note
Acetone	CS	
Aerosol cans (all)	CS	Propellants are organic solvents and not always listed as ingredients. If possible, choose a pump spray or non-aerosol.
Ammonia (household strength)	D	DO NOT MIX WITH OTHER CHEMICALS. Use up any leftover ammonia in laundry to remove mildew, pet, sweat odors (1 cup/regular load + non-bleach detergent - read labels). Mix with water to clean greasy windows.
Ammonia-based cleaners	D	Use for cleaning if possible. DO NOT MIX WITH OTHER CHEMICALS.
Antifreeze (all engine coolants, ethylene glycol)	R, CS*	Can be recycled if not mixed with other used vehicle fluids. Limited volume accepted at Clean Sweep. Extremely poisonous.
Antifreeze (winterizing, propylene glycol)	D	Safe for septic systems and city sewer in normal household quantities. Typically pink.
Asbestos	*	Contact landfill, 608-755-3105.
Auto body filler	T*, CS	Mix resin and hardener, trash when solid. If not possible, then Clean Sweep.
Automobile oil	R	Do not mix with any other fluids.
Batteries, alkaline	T,R\$	Do not stockpile old batteries.
Batteries, rechargeable, lithium ion, ni-cd, lead acid, vehicle/engine	R	Can be recycled for free at select local businesses. Rechargeable electronics can be recycled intact as electronic waste ('e-waste').
Battery acid	CS	
Bleach	D	Replace with borax for all colors. Do not mix with ammonia cleaners.
Brake fluid	R, CS	
Car wax (solvent-based)	CS	
Caulk, glaze, putty, mortar, plaster, cement	T	Harden and trash.
Contact cement	CS, T*	If hardened, trash. Otherwise to Clean Sweep.
Cosmetics	T	
Diesel (vehicle fuel)	CS	Short shelf life, some vehicle diesel starts breaking down within a month. Buy only what you will use in short-term.
Disinfectants	CS, D*	Save for Clean Sweep if: label says "germ proof", it contains chlorophenol; product is old; it's for industrial or commercial use; it's a large amount. If it is a recently purchased household product, okay for small amounts to go down household drain with lots of water.
Drain cleaner (liquid)	D	Use long pipe brush or vinegar and baking soda. Install hair screen. Make sure clog is not a solid object.
Drain opener (crystals)	CS	Only a few ounces can crash a septic system. Avoid using if connected to septic system. First try to break up clog with plunger, long pipe brush/snake, vinegar + baking soda, or liquid drain opener. Determine if clog is a solid object.
Driveway sealer	CS	Avoid coal tar (hazardous run-off). Look for low-solvent formula.
Fertilizer (no pesticides)	T	Don't stock up on fertilizer - it can turn into a solid block if not used right away.
Fertilizer (with pesticides)	CS	Place in clear plastic bag if possible. Don't stock up on fertilizer - it can turn into a solid block if not used up right away.
Fiberglass epoxy	T*, CS	Mix resin and hardener, trash when solid. If not possible, bring to Clean Sweep.
Floor cleaner (solvent-based)	CS	Switch to non-solvent cleaner.
Fluorescent lamps/bulbs	R, R\$	If fluorescent bulbs keep burning out, dimmers/other switches and the quality of the bulb might be factors. Switch to LED.



Material	Disposal	Note
Fluorescent ballasts	R\$	See recycling list. If from 1979 or earlier, might contain PCBs.
Fuel oil	R	Contact fuel oil dealer about pumping old tanks.
Gasoline	CS	Only buy as much as will be used right away. Extremely flammable and short shelf-life (about 3 months).
Gasoline/oil mixes	CS	
Glue (solvent-based)	CS, T*	Clean Sweep if not able to harden product. Hardened product can go in trash.
Glue (water-based)	T	Harden then trash.
Herbicides, fungicides	CS	Buy a little to see if it works, then buy only what you will use right away. Look at less toxic chemicals or biological/physical measures. Do not recycle pesticide containers.
Household cleaners (solvent based)	CS	All aerosol sprays use organic solvents as propellants. Try less hazardous products or non-aerosol sprays first.
Joint compound	T	
Kerosene	CS	Short shelf life (a few months if opened/seal broken).
Lighter fluid	CS	
Lotions, perfume, shave cream	D, T	
Mercury, thermometers, thermostats, etc.	CS	Leave devices intact. Seal in sturdy clear plastic containers and label as 'mercury'. Replace with digital thermometers/thermostats.
Mothballs	CS	Use up if possible. Use cedar if possible.
Nail polish (liquid) and remover	CS	Solidified nail polish can go in trash.
Oven cleaner	CS	Switch to non-hazardous cleaners or prevention.
Paint strippers	CS	Look at less hazardous method.
Paint (liquid), artist & hobby	CS*, T	Save for Clean Sweep (heavy metals): antimony white; barium yellow; burnt umber; cadmium yellow, orange, and red; chrome yellow, orange, and green; cobalt violet; emerald green or Paris green; flake white; mixed white or lead white; lemon yellow; manganese blue and violet; molybdate orange; Naples yellow; Thalo blue and green; raw umber; Scheele's green; strontium yellow; vermilion; zinc yellow.
Paint thinners	CS	Settle out solids, pour off clear liquid and seal tightly for reuse. Harden solids and trash. Switch to latex paint if possible.
Paint, auto, marine, equipment	CS	Can contain metals or other toxic ingredients.
Paint, latex	R\$, T	Recycle at select hardware stores or harden then trash with lids off. Use kitty litter, Oil-Dri/spill absorbents, air dry, or faster-acting paint hardener.
Paint, oil-based	CS, T*	Liquid to Clean Sweep. If solid, then trash, lids off. Cannot harden like latex paint.
Parts cleaner (solvent-based)	CS	Switch to less hazardous detergent-based cleaner.
Permanent wave solution	D	
Pesticides	CS	Look at less toxic chemicals or biological/physical measures. "Directory of Least-Toxic Pest Control Products" (http://www.birc.org/Final2015Directory.pdf)
Photographic chemicals	CS	
Polish - furniture, floor	CS, T*	If a small amount is left, air dry in non-living space, trash when solid. Switch to water-based with citrus.
Pool chemicals	CS	
Power steering fluid	CS	
Rat poison	CS	Traps, cat
Rust remover	CS	Switch to less toxic removers and methods.
Shellac	CS	
Solvent-based cleaners	CS	Switch to water-based products or detergent-based.
Spot remover	CS	Use up if possible.
Stain	CS, T*	Liquid to Clean Sweep or use paint hardener then trash when solid (kitty litter and other absorbents do not harden stains).
Stump remover	CS	Use non-chemical removal if possible.
Toilet, tub, tile cleaners	D	Use up. DO NOT mix with other chemicals.
Transmission fluid	R, CS	
Turpentine	CS	
Varnish	T*, CS	Trash if hardened, Clean Sweep if still liquid.
Window cleaner (non-auto)	D	Switch to vinegar + water for windows, ammonia + water for greasy windows.
Windshield washer solution	CS	Use up or share if possible otherwise Clean Sweep.
Wood filler	T*, CS	Trash if hardened, Clean Sweep if still workable.
Wood preservative	CS	Penta products are extremely hazardous. Wear protective clothing, wrap completely in plastic.

References: "Solvents and home cleaning products" (UWEX G3455), "Paint and other home improvement products" (UWEX G3454), "Home and garden pesticides" (UWEX G3453), "Waste oil and other automotive products" (UWEX G3456), "Household chemicals and your septic system" (Cornell Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet 16), US EPA. Any mention of products or services in this guide is not an endorsement by Rock County Land Conservation Department or Clean Sweep partners. This guide was produced by Rock County Land Conservation Department.