



It is important to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic equipment in a safe and appropriate manner. The dangers of disposing of these materials incorrectly might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and threaten human health. This fact sheet discusses each waste and where to go to drop off these materials. By following these instructions, you can help protect our resources and keep your home and city safe.

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, unused or expired medications, and pesticides. Household hazardous wastes should **not** be poured down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases put in the trash. Below is a list of common household hazardous waste material:



- Antifreeze
- Unused or expired medications
- Used motor oil
- Oil-based paints
- Paint thinners
- Aerosol paints
- Herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides
- Lawn chemicals
- Solvents
- Cleaning products
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Mercury
- Compact fluorescent lamp and light bulbs (CFL)

What Is Electronic Recycling?

As electronic equipment became more affordable, more households are using a wide variety of electronic devices. Common household electronics include computers, televisions, videocassette recorders (VCR), DVD players, audio equipment (stereos), and telephones. Household electronics often contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs). These hazardous materials can contaminate the environment when they are disposed of improperly. However, if they are recycled (referred to as “e-cycling”), any hazardous materials they contain are removed and reprocessed or reused in an environmentally-responsible manner.



Remember, electronic waste or “e-waste” cannot be recycled in your Blue Cart or with your household recyclables.



In September, 2008 Illinois passed a comprehensive electronics recycling law, which will help create additional opportunities for residents to recycle electronics and includes:

- A ban on certain electronics (such as televisions, computers and printers) from being landfilled starting January 1, 2012
- A requirement for manufacturers to pay for the cost of collecting, recycling or reusing certain obsolete residential electronics products starting January 1, 2010

How Do I Dispose of My Household Hazardous Waste and Recycle My Electronics (“e-cycling”)?

The City of Chicago operates a permanent Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility where you can drop off household chemicals and unwanted computers, computer peripherals, and cell and cordless phones for reuse and recycling.

The facility location and hours are:

- Location:** 1150 N. Branch Street
(two blocks east of the Kennedy Expressway at
Division Street)
- Hours:** Tuesdays (7:00 am to 12:00 pm)
Thursdays (2:00 pm to 7:00 pm)
First Saturday of every month (8:00 am to 3:00 pm)

In addition, the City of Chicago Department of Environment holds electronic recycling and household chemical collection events in different neighborhood around the city. Special neighborhood collection days give you additional opportunities to also drop off items, including unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs, and outdated lawnmowers and gas cans.

How do you dispose of latex paint?

The Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility is no longer accepting latex paint because of its high disposal cost and very low environmental impact. Here’s what you can do with your left over paint:



- Save leftover paint for a new project or paint scrap lumber or cardboard. Let the empty paint can dry and then **recycle the empty can.**
- Absorb the remaining paint with sawdust or kitty litter or pour it into a bag. Once the paint has dried, throw the absorbent material or bag away and **recycle the empty can.**
- Donate it to friends, neighbors, local schools or theater groups.
- Store it for touch-ups in the future.

Takeback Programs

Additional recycling opportunities are always emerging. For example, CFLs can also be recycled at participating Home Depot and Ace Hardware Stores.

Also, when purchasing electronics and office supplies, check with the store to see if they will accept the older electronics being replaced.

- For more information on the Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility and household hazardous waste and electronic waste collections throughout the city, call 311 or go to www.chicagorecycles.org.
- For more information on e-cycling, visit the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Activity at www.illinoisrecycles.com.