

## WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES (HHW)?

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are those wastes produced in our households that are hazardous in nature, but are not regulated as hazardous waste, under federal and state laws. Each person in Pennsylvania produces an average of four pounds of HHW each year or about 25,000 tons/yr. statewide. Included are such items as old paints and paint related products, pesticides, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, and degreasers and other car care products. Such consumer waste products, if carelessly managed can, and frequently do, create environmental and public health hazards.



## SAFE MANAGEMENT OF HHW

To avoid the potential risks associated with household hazardous wastes, it is important that people always monitor the use, storage, and disposal of products with potentially hazardous substances in their homes. Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the regular trash.

### Some quick tips for the safe handling of household hazardous wastes include:

- Follow any instructions for use and storage provided on product labels carefully to prevent any accidents at home.
- Be sure to read product labels for disposal directions to reduce the risk of products exploding, igniting, leaking, mixing with other chemicals, or posing other hazards on the way to a disposal facility.
- Never store hazardous products in food containers; keep them in their original containers and never remove labels. Corroding containers, however, require special handling. Call your local hazardous materials official or fire department for instructions.
- When leftovers remain, never mix HHW with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode, and contaminated HHW might become unrecyclable.

### Some quick tips for the safe managing household hazardous wastes include:

- The best method of managing HHW is to prevent its generation in the first place. This involves selecting the least toxic item "to do the job" and buying only the amounts necessary.
- If the material is still useable (damaged/shelf life expired, etc.) check to see others might be able to use it. Check with community groups to see if they can use the product.
- If the material is not useable and/or if such "outlets" are not available, it should be taken to your community's HHW Collection Program, if available. Call the **Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority at (814) 765-5149 for details** regarding scheduled special collection events and to learn about on-going recycling opportunities for items such as used motor oil, tires, batteries, e-waste, mercury containing devices, fluorescent lamps, propane cylinders /tanks, and pharmaceuticals.

## WHAT IS E-WASTE?

E-waste or electronic discards include computers, monitors, televisions, printers, and other electronic devices. Today's consumer electronic products are characterized by rapidly evolving technology and a relatively short product life. The average lifespan of a computer is currently about three to four years, and advances in technology for all electronic equipment renders them obsolete. Due to the relatively low price of new equipment, items that break or become obsolete are often discarded into the waste stream rather than being repaired or upgraded. Given the sheer volume of electronics and the hazardous materials they may contain, consumers and generators are encouraged to seek environmentally safe options such as reuse or recycling when their electronics reach the end of its useful life.



## WHY IS IT POTENTIALLY HARMFUL?

Many consumer electronic products contain heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury as well as other materials that are better kept out of the environment. In fact, the typical cathode ray tube computer monitor (non-flat screen model) contains four to seven pounds of lead. Televisions, depending on their size, may contain even more lead.

## COVERED DEVICE RECYCLING ACT (CDRA), ACT 108 OF 2010

The Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA), Act 108 of 2010, requires manufacturers to provide recycling programs for desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions sold to consumers in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, beginning Jan. 24, 2013, the CDRA banned the disposal of these devices and any of their components in municipal waste. Desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals, televisions, and any components of such devices may no longer be disposed in Pennsylvania with municipal waste. All of these devices are required to be properly recycled.

## AVAILABLE RECYCLING OPTIONS

Because of the unintended consequences of the Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010, it's harder than ever to dispose of certain electronics, particularly old televisions and computer monitors. Currently there are very few options available for recycling electronics in Clearfield County especially for old style televisions and monitors known as CRTS (cathode ray tube).

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