



# Moving or Cleaning? Handle Hazards With Care

**I**f you're like most people, there's a place in your home—maybe it's your basement or kitchen or garage—where you store cleaning products, automotive items, paints, pesticides, and other chemicals.

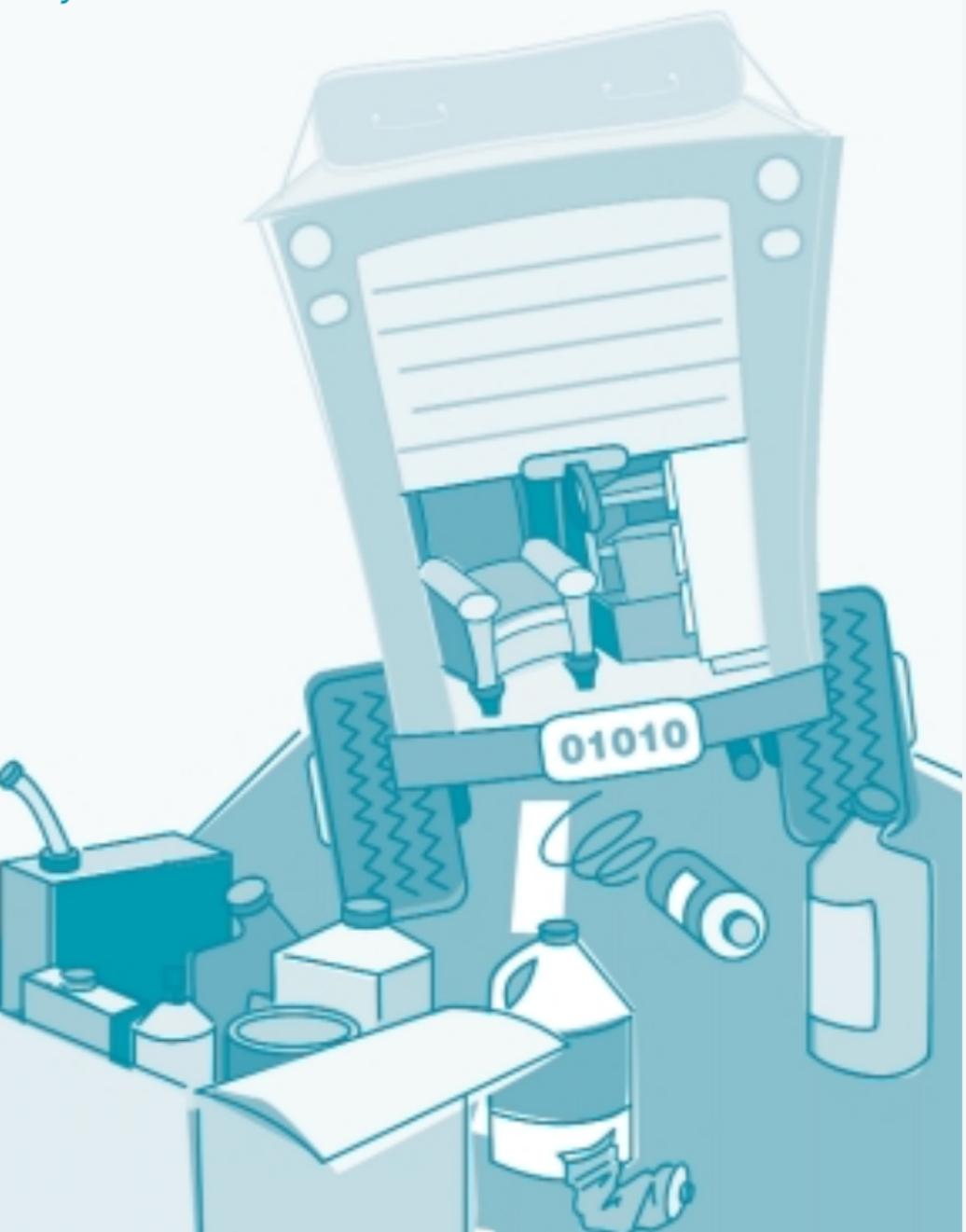
If you're cleaning up or moving out of your home, you might not want to keep these products, but **what do you do with them?**



# What Is Household Hazardous Waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be “household hazardous waste.” Products that contain hazardous ingredients are safe to use when you follow label directions, but require special care when you dispose of them. If disposed of improperly, these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Many communities in the United States offer a variety of options for conveniently and safely managing household hazardous waste. See the checklist inside to help you recognize household hazardous waste in your home.



# Safe and Convenient Ways

## To Manage Household Hazardous Waste

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### Permanent Collection or Exchange Facilities

Check with your local environmental or solid waste agency to see if your community has a facility that collects household hazardous wastes year-round or offers opportunities for exchanging products with other residents. Permanent facilities ensure that products are safely reused, recycled, or disposed of.

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### Special Collection Days

If your community doesn't have a year-round collection system for household hazardous waste, contact your local environmental or solid waste agency to see if there are any designated days in your area for collecting these materials. On such days, qualified professionals collect household hazardous waste at a central location to ensure safe recycling and disposal. If no designated collection days exist in your area, encourage your community to organize one annually. Community leaders can receive help and information from EPA (see section on "Home Safe Home" for more information).



### Local Business Collection Sites

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If your community has neither a permanent collection site nor a special collection day, you might be able to drop off certain products, such as batteries, paint, or automotive supplies, at local businesses for recycling or proper disposal. Call your local environmental or solid waste agency or Chamber of Commerce for information.

### Donation

Try to reuse leftover household products by donating them to friends, neighbors, or community organizations that might be able to use them. Be sure the products are in good condition (e.g., not leaking) and that labels are legible.



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### Disposal

Some communities allow disposal of household hazardous waste in trash, particularly those that don't yet have collection programs. Call your local environmental or solid waste agency for instructions on proper disposal. Follow their directions, or read the product label to reduce the risk of products exploding, igniting, leaking, mixing with other chemicals, or posing other hazards on the way to a disposal facility. Even empty containers of household hazardous waste can pose hazards.



# Checklist

## of Household Hazardous Waste

The following checklist shows some common household hazardous waste items. If you're getting rid of leftover or unused household products, please reuse, recycle, or dispose of them properly.

### Cleaning Products

- Drain cleaners
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Toilet cleaners
- Tub, tile, shower cleaners
- Bleach (laundry)
- Pool chemicals

### Automotive Products

- Motor oil
- Fuel additives
- Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners
- Air-conditioning refrigerants
- Starter fluids
- Automotive batteries
- Transmission and brake fluid
- Antifreeze

### Lawn and Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives
- Pesticides

### Indoor Pesticides

- Ant poisons
- Cockroach poisons
- Flea repellents
- Fly sprays
- Houseplant insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse and rat poisons

### Workshop/ Painting Supplies

- Adhesives and glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil- or enamel-based paint
- Stains and finishes
- Paint thinners and turpentine
- Paint strippers and removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives and other solvents

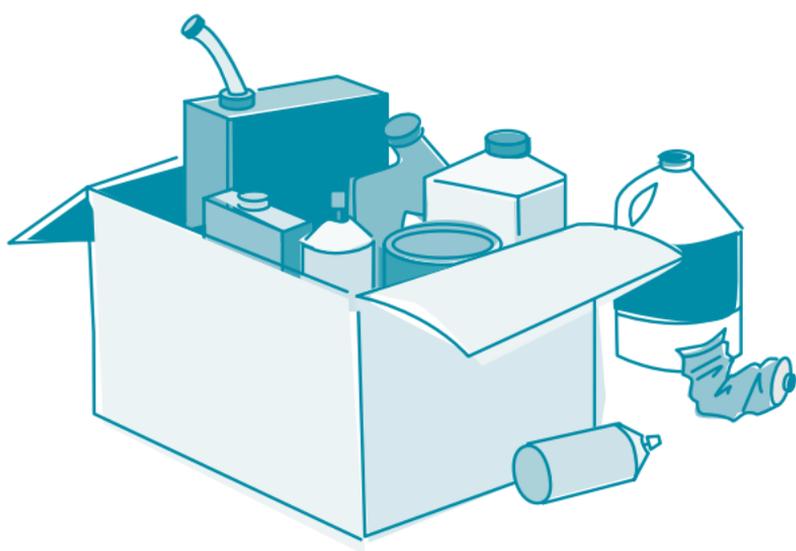
### Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats or thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs

# Home Safe Home

Now that you've learned how to reuse, recycle, or dispose of household hazardous waste properly, consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Learn about the use of alternative methods or products—without hazardous ingredients—for some common household needs.

For more information, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at 1-800-424-9346 and order *The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste* (EPA530-K-96-003). In particular, see page 31, Appendix A. For information on how to start a household hazardous waste collection program, order *Household Hazardous Waste Management: A Manual for One-Day Collection Programs* (EPA530-R-92-026).



Local solid waste agencies:

Put local contact information here.

# Apartments, Condominiums, and Dormitories

If you live in an apartment, condominium, or college dormitory, follow the steps outlined in this brochure to safely donate, recycle, or dispose of your household hazardous waste. For additional information, you also might want to contact your landlord, apartment or condominium manager, or college recycling coordinator.

