



Spring Cleaning? Here's how to safely dispose of Household Hazardous Waste in Hampton Roads

(Hampton Roads, Va., March 28, 2022) – You're spring cleaning and ready to toss out the half-filled paint cans, old florescent bulbs and used motor oil. Look at you tidying up! But do you know how to properly dispose of these and other leftover household hazardous waste (HHW) products? To point Hampton Roads residents in the right direction, askHRgreen.org publishes a listing of local HHW resources and collection events on their website at www.askhrgreen.org/hhw.

"These products don't belong in the trash, recycling bin or down the toilet. Nor should they be released into yards, waterways and storm drains, where they can harm our beautiful coastal environment," said Katie Cullipher with askHRgreen.org. "Take any household hazardous waste products to your community's HHW facility, where they will be disposed of properly and at no cost to you."

The Environmental Protection Agency defines HHW as leftover household chemicals that can catch fire, react and explode, or that are corrosive or toxic. Common HHW includes products used for house cleaning, pest removal, automotive care, lawn and garden upkeep, home projects, along with lithium batteries, flammable liquids and products containing mercury such as thermometers, thermostats and light bulbs.

In addition to knowing how to safely dispose of such toxic products, it's also important to be a smart consumer when purchasing and to know how and where to store them. Cullipher offers these tips:

- When buying products, read the labels and select non-hazardous or less-hazardous components that do the same job.
- Buy and use only the amount needed for your project. Leftovers can be shared or donated.
- Keep all products in their original containers, labeled and sealed.
- Store them away from the elements in a secured, preferably locked area.

Residents can also be on the lookout for HHW collection events in their community, and by checking for events listed at www.askHRgreen.org/events.

About askHRgreen.org Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, askHRgreen.org is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Let’s Talk Green” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.

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