

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive, or Explosive

Common household items as diverse as rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, cleaning products, nail polish remover, medicines, mercury thermometers, lawn care products, paints, paint thinners and automotive fluids may be harmful to groundwater, lakes and streams if stored or disposed of improperly. A substance is considered hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive or can explode.

Of course, you should never dump hazardous products into storm drains. It is illegal and the sewers will carry them directly to lakes and streams. It is also a bad idea to store or dump hazardous substances where rain or snowmelt runoff may carry them away.



Information on the storage and disposal of potentially hazardous substances is available from the Nobles County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility located at 960 Diagonal Road in Worthington. The chart below shows the HHW Facility's recommendations for disposal. The facility accepts most the hazardous waste from households at no charge. There is a fee for disposal of fluorescent light bulbs and electronics. The HHW facility is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Household HazWaste Disposal Guide

= Recycle
 = With lots of water, flush in sanitary sewer (NOT a septic tank)
 = Dispose of dried solids in the trash
 = Save for a household hazardous waste collection or bring to Nobles County Facility

Automotive	Lawn and Garden	Home Improvement	Household Items
Used motor oil	Weed killer	Latex paint	Drain and oven cleaner
Auto batteries	Insect killer	Oil-based paint	Toilet cleaner
Transmission fluid	Roach, ant poison	Stain, varnish, lacquer	Rechargeable/Button Batteries
Brake fluid	Rodent bait	Paint thinner	Aerosol products
Antifreeze or	Bug spray	Turpentine	Empty aerosols
Gasoline, fuels	Fertilizer w/weed killer	Furniture stripper	Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Degreasers	Fertilizer (no weed killer)	Paint remover	Rubbing alcohol
Carburetor cleaner	Pool chemicals	Wood preservatives	Disinfectant
Windshield washer	Lighter fluid	Roofing tar	Cleaner w/bleach
		Driveway sealer	Polish w/solvents
		Glue w/solvents	Glass cleaner
		Water-based glue	Mothballs
		Putty, grout, caulk	Alkaline Batteries
		Glaze, spackle	Nail Polish, remover
		Concrete cleaner	Empty containers

Questions?

Please call the Nobles County
 Household Hazardous Waste Facility
 (507) 295-5322

Unwanted Electronics

Electronic waste often contains mercury, lead, cadmium and other toxins. These heavy metals are harmful to aquatic life in lakes and streams, and may pollute groundwater. Most electronic devices also contain recyclable components that are best kept out of landfills. In Minnesota, it is illegal to dispose of the cathode ray tubes, found in old TV sets and computer monitors, in a trash container.

Fortunately, Worthington residents have a good option for recycling unwanted electronics. The Nobles County HHW facility accepts electronics from households and businesses for a small charge. For more details, call the Nobles County HHW Facility at 507-295-5322.



Appliance Recycling

It is illegal in Minnesota to throw appliances in the trash or dump them where they may cause pollution. Appliances include items like refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, stoves, washers and dryers, microwaves, dishwashers, garbage disposals and furnaces. Appliances often contain mercury, PCBs, refrigerants and oils.

Worthington collects appliances during the spring cleanup. For more information, call the Worthington Public Works Department at (507) 372-8650. Appliances may also be recycled for a fee during business hours at the Nobles County Landfill.

Unused Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs

Doctors and pharmacists once recommended that patients flush unused pharmaceuticals down the toilet. This advice changed after potentially harmful drugs were detected downstream of wastewater treatment plants. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency now recommends sending unwanted drugs to the landfill. The agency published a factsheet explaining how to place drugs safely into the trash. It can be found at: www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hhw4-54.pdf.

Private citizens can also take prescription and nonprescription drugs to a collection box inside the main entrance of the Prairie Justice Center in Worthington.

Explosives

Ammunition, gunpowder, fireworks or explosives are not usually a water quality hazard, but they should not be discarded in a trash container for obvious reasons. Call the Prairie Justice Center at (507) 372-2136 for information on disposing of these products.

