



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for N.H. Solid Waste Facilities

### Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste, or HHW, is a hazardous product or material that is disposed of by residents from their homes. Many common household products, such as oil-based paints, solvents, chemical drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, waxes, pesticides, cleaning agents and spent automotive products are considered hazardous because they have one or more of the following hazardous properties.

**Ignitable/Flammable** – Catches fire easily.

**Corrosive/Caustic** – Burns and destroys living tissue on contact.

**Reactive/Explosive** – Detonates or explodes when exposed to heat, sudden shock or pressure.

**Toxic/Poison** – Capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or absorption through the skin.

Ignitable or reactive household chemicals can release toxic fumes or even explode if mixed together, causing fires and injuring workers. Products like lye can burn skin, eyes or respiratory passages. Exposure to some pesticides, paints and solvents can cause weakness, confusion, dizziness, irritability, headaches, nausea, sweating, tremors, and convulsions. Repeated chemical exposure can cause cancer or birth defects.

#### Did You Know?

- The average household throws 15.5 pounds of hazardous materials into the trash each year.
- Product labels include signal words to help you quickly identify hazardous products. The words "Danger" (most toxic), "Warning" and "Caution" (least toxic) help identify the various degrees of toxicity.

Although it is legal to throw out most types of HHW with the regular trash, collecting it separately for disposal at a hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility is a more responsible way of managing it. Several N.H. towns periodically sponsor special HHW collection events for their residents, using grant money from NHDES to help defray the costs. In addition, permanent collection centers can be established.

Facilities that collect HHW separately from regular household trash do not need a permit from NHDES, but they are required to notify NHDES, obtain a hazardous waste generator identification number, and comply with hazardous waste generator standards. If your facility or town is considering this, contact NHDES for technical assistance and obtain the services of a hazardous waste professional to help you design and operate the facility.

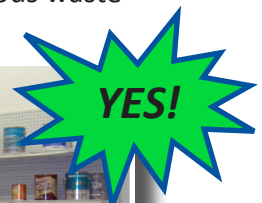
#### Best Management Practices for Household Hazardous Waste

- Encourage residents to keep HHW out of their regular trash and save it for disposal at a local HHW collection event if one is planned for your town.
- Sponsor a HHW collection event in your town on a yearly or more frequent basis, so that residents can depend on having a place to take their HHW rather than having to put it in the regular trash. Call NHDES for possible grant assistance.

- If you collect HHW separately from the regular trash, whether at a one-time event or on a more permanent basis at your facility, you or your contractor must comply with hazardous waste generator standards, including but not limited to.
  - > Submit a completed Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity Form to NHDES and obtain a hazardous waste generator identification number.
  - > Make sure all workers at the collection site are properly trained to identify and handle hazardous waste. Depending on the quantity of HHW you collect monthly, you may also need at least one person on staff to become a NHDES Certified Hazardous Waste Coordinator.
  - > Store HHW safely according to the following:
    - Store collected HHW in a secure, dry area away from sources of heat, spark or flame, with an intact concrete floor, no floor drains, and protection from wind and precipitation.
    - Post warning signs against unauthorized entry, and emergency contact information.
    - Keep collected HHW in original, tightly closed containers with the labels intact; do not mix them.
    - If a container is deteriorated or leaking, place the entire container inside a leak-proof covered container made of the same material and label it. Add an absorbent material, such as cat litter, or an acid neutralizing agent, such as baking soda or lime, to the outside container if appropriate.
    - Keep ignitables, corrosives, reactives and toxics separate from one another. For example, store them on separate shelves.
    - Post NO SMOKING signs near ignitable or reactive wastes.
    - Keep spill and fire control equipment nearby.
    - Organize and maintain the storage area so that you can easily inspect for, contain, and clean up leaks.
    - Inspect the storage area on a weekly or more frequent basis.
    - Store collected HHW no longer than 90 days. Hire a State of N.H. registered hazardous waste transporter to deliver it to an authorized hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility, using a manifest.



HHW is stored haphazardly on the ground and is exposed to the weather. Some containers are not closed.



HHW is neatly stored and categorized, off the ground and under cover.

**For additional information, contact:**  
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