

# Alternatives to Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)



# What is Household Hazardous Waste??

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes a wide range of products that are commonly found in homes but are hazardous because of their properties:

- highly flammable, corrosive, reactive, or poisonous.

Common examples include:

- some lawn and garden herbicides, insecticides, items containing lead or mercury such as thermostats and thermometers, household cleaners, paints, pool and spa chemicals, and automotive products.

# Alternatives to Hazardous Materials

Item	Hazard	Alternative
Lubricating Oils (Ex. WD-40)	Flammable, toxic, air pollutant	Castor, mineral oil-hinges, door knobs, latches
Window/glass cleaners	Irritant, corrosive	Water, vinegar, newspaper
Drain cleaners	Irritant, highly corrosive	Baking soda, vinegar, boiling water
Pesticides/Insecticides	Poison from exposure, toxic, water pollutant	Soapy water, neem oil, beneficial insects
Furniture polish	Flammable; toxic; irritant. Air pollutant. Benzene is a known carcinogen.	Mineral, olive, almond oil
Synthetic/chemical fertilizers	Corrosive, water pollutant	Organic fertilizers (Dr.Earth), compost!
Disinfecting bleach	Irritant, toxic	White vinegar, hydrogen peroxide

# Other Ways to Reduce HHW in the Home

- Shop smart/read labels
- Buy only what you need
- Borrow/share
- Use less





# HHW Survey

In 2008, Oregon DEQ carried out a phone survey about the use and perception of hazardous products.

The survey included 615 participants

Completed to gain a better understand of the residents they were serving and how to develop their programs to meet needs.



# HHW Results

Leftover pharmaceuticals were most commonly either flushed (43%) or put in the garbage (42%).

CFLs were most frequently thrown in the garbage (49%).

Among respondents who reported using only conventional chemical products on their lawn, as opposed to organic or natural methods, 69% agreed that they don't use natural methods of lawn care because they don't know enough about them.

Nearly all respondents agreed that manufacturers should be required to provide a complete list of ingredients in their products (95%) and also agreed that manufacturers should be required to share in the responsibility for safely recycling or disposing of their products (89%).

A significant number of respondents (20%) reported experiencing harmful health effects because of exposure to cleaning products at home

Full briefing of survey: <http://bit.ly/2lerKn2>



# What Happens to HHW

Most hazardous wastes are recycled or burned for fuel recovery after they are collected at an event or facility. The remaining wastes are neutralized, packaged and shipped to a hazardous waste landfill, where they are buried.

Handouts Discussed Tonight Can Be Found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Publications.aspx>





# Household Hazardous Waste

## Group Activity:

For each of your 2 items, work together to determine:

- 1) What are the potential hazards associated with this product,
- 2) What is one alternative to this product?

Afterwards, we'll share with the class what we discovered.