Newsletter & Social Media Example Content

Topic: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Newsletter Content:

Household hazardous waste, or HHW, is more common than you might think. HHW is any unused household product that can catch on fire, cause a toxic reaction when combined with other chemicals, explode or become corrosive. This can include paints, cleaners, oils, fuels, batteries, and pesticides. HHW requires special disposal and can’t be poured down the drain, on the ground, or into storm sewers. Some HHW can’t even be disposed of with regular trash. Improperly disposed of HHW can pollute the ground and local waterbodies and could pose a risk to your health and safety. Plus, if certain HHW gets mixed in the back of the truck, when it’s compacted, it can start fires or release dangerous gases putting the garbage hauler at risk.

What are the best ways to properly handle and dispose of HHW? If you don’t use it all, store it in its original containers so you know what it is and don’t accidentally mix it with something else. Check with [your municipality or waste hauler] to find out what HHW disposal options are available in our community. Another way to reduce the risk posed by improperly disposing of HHW is to use less of it in your home. The [US Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw) offers tips for alternatives to using HHW, such as making your own window cleaner with lemon juice and water. The [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw) has some information on how you can get rid of HHW and some ideas for purchasing just what you need so you don’t have any leftovers for storage or disposal.

[Insert any additional information specific to your community such as phone numbers to report illegal dumping, local HHW cleanup events or facilities, or details on what can be disposed of in your community. This information can also be added to the example social media post language below.]

Social Media Content:

* Household Hazardous Waste are any products that can catch on fire, be toxic when mixed, can explode, or can be corrosive. You can’t pour it down the drain, on the ground or in a storm sewer. And sometimes, you can’t throw it away with regular trash. Check with [your municipality or waste hauler] to find out what HHW disposal options are available in your community.
* Reduce the need to store or dispose of Household Hazardous Waste in your home by buying only what you need for your projects. Don’t buy extra for next time, because it can be dangerous for you and the environment if you store it improperly or something happens, like a flood or fire.
* Did you know that CFL, or compact fluorescent bulbs, and batteries are household hazardous waste and shouldn’t be thrown away with your regular trash? Check with [your municipality or waste hauler] to find out what HHW disposal options are available in your community.
* One of the best ways to avoid the hassle of storing or disposing of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in your home is to not have it in the first place. There are several alternatives to HHW products, such as using a plunger or plumbing snake instead of drain cleaner to unclog a drain or using baking soda as a rug deodorizer instead of a commercial product.

Other Helpful Links & Resources:

* United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) HHW webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>
* Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) HHW webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw>

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