

Why is proper disposal important?

Groundwater provides the vast majority (approximately 90%) of Florida's drinking water. The state's high water table is very vulnerable to contamination. Improper disposal presents the potential for toxic substances to reach our water supply.

To provide safe disposal for household hazardous waste, Hernando County established the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC) at the **Northwest Waste Management Facility**, 14450 Landfill Road, 10 miles north west of Brooksville on US 98 North. The hours of operations are Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for designated holidays.

The HHWCC will accept only residentially generated household waste. The following materials **cannot** be accepted at the HHWCC:

- ▶ Radioactive materials
- ▶ Biomedical waste (Note - Used hypodermic needles are accepted under the Used Sharps Program)
- ▶ High pressure gas cylinders



What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Household hazardous waste is defined as having one or more of the following four properties: flammable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic. The following commonly used household materials may have these properties:

- ▶ Pesticides and herbicides
- ▶ Oil-based paints
- ▶ Paint remover
- ▶ Paint thinner
- ▶ Solvents
- ▶ Brake fluid
- ▶ Stale gasoline
- ▶ Household cleaners
- ▶ Fluorescent Lamps
- ▶ Pool chemicals

When a residential household generates these wastes, they are known as "household hazardous waste" (HHW). The disposal of household hazardous waste is exempt from some of the state and federal government regulations.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year. Improper disposal of household hazardous waste poses a threat to people and to the environment.

How should I prepare my Household Hazardous Waste for transport?

- ▶ Keep material in the original container with the label intact.
- ▶ Clearly label the container if the original label is missing.
- ▶ Label the container "unknown" if you do not know the material content. Include any information that you have about an unknown material (paint, insecticide, etc.).
- ▶ Make sure all lids are tight.
- ▶ Place leaking containers in a larger container with an absorbent (kitty litter or vermiculite).
- ▶ Do not mix different or unknown materials together. Some compounds are reactive and could vent toxic fumes.
- ▶ Secure glass bottles to prevent breakage.



