

# Acceptable Materials & Disposal Guidelines

## What is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

HHW is waste generated in the home that may be harmful to human health or the environment. These wastes may contain ingredients that are flammable, toxic, corrosive or reactive. If the labels on products in your home have words like *Danger*, *Toxic* or *Flammable*, those products contain hazardous waste. Some of the most common HHW products are pesticides, paints and varnishes, paint strippers, automotive fluids, gasoline, drain openers and batteries. The same qualities that make HHW dangerous to humans make them dangerous to our pets and the environment. These products should not be thrown in the trash or poured down the drain:

- **Aerosols** – We accept aerosol cans that contain product. Empty cans that have lost their “Pfff” may be placed in your trash or recycled.
- **Anti-Freeze** – Over 200 million gallons of anti-freeze are consumed annually in the United States, of which only 12-15% are recycled. It has a sweet smell and taste that is attractive, yet toxic to children and pets. Used anti-freeze also contains heavy metals that are absorbed from the vehicle. The used product collected at this facility is shipped to a plant where it is remanufactured into new anti-freeze.
- **Batteries** – We accept rechargeable, lithium and button-cell batteries. We do not accept alkaline batteries or sealed lead acid (car) batteries. Alkaline batteries may be thrown in the trash. Car batteries may be recycled through battery suppliers and automotive repair businesses.
- **Fluorescent Tubes/CFL Bulbs** – We accept fluorescent tubes and CFLs that contain mercury. Incandescent bulbs do not contain mercury and may be placed in your trash.
- **Household Cleaners** – We accept household cleaners that are poisonous, flammable, corrosive or reactive.
- **Mercury** – We accept mercury thermometers and thermostats.
- **Paint** – We accept oil-based and latex paints. Empty paint cans and solidified latex paint may be placed in your trash with the lids removed.
- **Pesticides** – We accept pesticides and fertilizers that contain pesticides in quantities up to five gallons or 50 pounds. Solid fertilizers that don't contain pesticides may be thrown in the trash. We are unable to offer pesticides on our reuse shelves unless the original seal is still intact. Please consider sharing unwanted or leftover pesticides with family, friends or neighbors.
- **Used Oil and Fuels** – We accept used motor oil, fuels and other automotive fluids from residential sources, limited to five gallons or 50 pounds weekly

## What to do with everything else:

- **Ammunition** – Ammunition may be disposed of at the police department or sheriff's office.
- **Asbestos** – Small amounts of non-friable asbestos material from your home may be double-wrapped in plastic and disposed of with prior permission. Contact the landfill at (785) 826-7395 for guidelines and associated fees.
- **Electronic Waste** – The City of Salina offers an annual e-waste collection event, usually in early May.
- **Explosives and Firearms** – Contact law enforcement for special handling instructions for explosives or unwanted firearms.
  - Salina Police Department – (785) 826-7210
  - Saline County Sheriff's Office – (785) 826-6500
- **Fire Extinguishers** – There are several commercial fire and safety businesses that accept household fire extinguishers for disposal.
- **Medications** – *Operation Medicine Cabinet*: Turn in your unwanted or unused medicine to the sheriff's office at 251 N. 10th St. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays.
- **Propane Tanks** – Empty cylinders may be disposed of in your trash. To empty a cylinder, attach it to a compatible appliance and release the remaining gas.
- **Sharps** – Turn in sharps for disposal at any local fire station. They must be in a container with a sealed lid that is taped shut.
- **Smoke Detectors** – Smoke detectors contain a small amount of radioactive material. Many smoke alarm manufacturers offer mail-in disposal programs. Check the back of your detector for contact and return information.