

## GREEN LIVING

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Chemicals found in the home that are not used up according to their label, can have negatively, and sometimes permanently, affect the health of kids, pets, adults and the environment. Please read the label regarding disposal requirements. Containers that have product still in them should never be placed in the trash. Here are some guidelines on what to do with those products.

#### AUTOMOBILE FLUIDS

Automotive fluids should never be thrown in the garbage, poured down the drain or onto the ground. Old or unwanted fluids should be placed in a container with a tight fitting lid, properly labeled and brought to a hazardous waste collection facility or designated location for proper disposal. The facility at the Horn Rapids Landfill in Richland is only accepting automotive motor oil, antifreeze and batteries until a permanent facility is built.

#### **Disposal Requirements**

Please follow these proper disposal requirements.

- **Used Motor and Transmission Oil:** Collect the oil in a large pan and pour into a container with a secure lid or cap. Label it and take to an oil recycler (see below).
- **Oil Filters:** Puncture the dome end of the filter. Turn it upside down and drain for 12 hours or overnight. Wrap the filter in a plastic bag and discard in the trash. Recycle the oil.
- **Anti-Freeze:** Pour into a container with a secure lid and label the contents. Take to the Horn Rapids Landfill for proper disposal or hold for the HHW facility to open in the spring. Anti-freeze that has been contaminated with another fluid should be taken to a HHW facility.
- **Brake Fluid:** Collect in a lidded, plastic container and label the contents. Take to the HHW facility opening in the spring.
- **Batteries:** Automotive or gel cell batteries can be recycled at the Horn Rapids Landfill or exchanged when buying a new one. Contact a battery distributor for more information.
- **Tires:** Exchange them when you buy new ones or take to the Horn Rapids Landfill for proper disposal. There is a fee to dispose of tires, depending on the size and removal of the rim.
- **Gasoline, Power Steering Fluid or Windshield Wiper Fluid:** These types of fluids should be completely used up as they are toxic and/or flammable. Gas from unneeded motorized equipment can sometimes be funneled into your vehicle's gas tank or disposed of at a collection facility.

#### **Free Oil Recycling Locations in Richland - 5 gallons or less. No mixed fluids. Call first.**

- Auto Zone, 1701 George Washington Way, 946-6372
- Horn Rapids Landfill, 3120 Twin Bridges Road (no prior call is necessary) Schucks-O'Reilly Auto Supply, 1308 Jadwin, 943-0207
- Walmart, 2801 Duportail Street, 628-8420.

## BATTERIES

**Batteries, Household Type:** Used C, D, AA, AAA can be solidified (dried) in unwanted latex paint, placed in a container with kitty litter, or disposed of at the Benton County HHW Facility when it opens in 2017. Batteries are a non-regulated waste and although discouraged, are legal to place in the trash.

**Batteries, Rechargeable:** Used rechargeable batteries (those found in portable phones, cell phones, lab top computers, hand tools, pagers, two-way radios) can be placed in containers at Radio Shack, Office Depot, Best Buy, Home Depot and Staples Office Supply Stores.

## BULBS – FLUORESCENT TUBES, CFL, HID, NEON, BLACK, PROJECTION, ETC.

Some of the energy efficient light bulbs on the market contain mercury or phosphor powder to help them burn brighter and longer. These include:

- Fluorescent tubes
- High density (HID) lamps (mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium)
- Compact fluorescent
- Neon lamps//black lights (some may be manufactured with mercury and phosphor powder)
- Projector lights.

### **Drop off for proper disposal**

Please wrap and drop off at:

- Ace Hardware, 103 Keene Road, 628-3618
- Ace Hardware, 1415 George Washington Way, 946-0881

Up to 10 lights may be dropped off per visit. Ballasts or lighting fixtures will not be accepted. The bulbs will be processed at EcoLights Northwest in Seattle. The recyclable components, including mercury, will be refined and reused. **For more information, visit <http://lightrecyclewa.org/>.**

### **Broken Light Cleanup Procedure**

If a dangerous bulb breaks, do not panic; just follow these simple instructions:

Avoid breathing vapors or touching broken materials. **Do not vacuum or sweep.**

1. **Open windows to vent vapors for at least 15 minutes. Leave the area during this time.**
2. Use stiff paper or cardboard to pick up large pieces.
3. Use duct tape to pick up small pieces and powder.
4. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or wet wipe.
5. Place all materials in an air-tight container, such as a plastic bag that is completely sealed with tape.
6. Be sure to include the broken light and any items that were used to clean it up.
7. Wash your hands.
8. Bring the sealed bag or container to a Light-cycle Washington Collection Site for recycling.

## COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

### **Sell first**

If you have computer or other electronics that are in good or working condition, consider posting them on [Craigslist](#), or [Freecycle Tri-Cities](#). The Tri-City Herald also has a [free print ad](#) for items under \$200, and there are other businesses that sell classified ads.

### **Free Computer Recycling**

Richland is part of the [Washington E-Cycle Program](#). Used TVs, computers, monitors, printers, and laptops are accepted for safe disposal at the following locations:  
(Be sure to remove sensitive data.)

#### **Benton County**

- Clayton Ward Recycling, 1936 Saint Street, Richland: (509) 375-4086
- Goodwill Industries collection trailer, Walmart parking lot, 2801 Duportail Street, Richland
- Goodwill Industries collection trailer, Albertsons parking lot, 140 W. Gage Boulevard, Richland
- Clayton Ward Recycling, 119 East Albany Street, Kennewick: (509) 582-8277
- Goodwill Industries trailer, Walmart, 2720 S. Quillan Street, Kennewick, (509) 586-1554
- Goodwill Industries trailer, Fred Meyer parking lot, Highway 395 and 10th Avenue, Kennewick
- Goodwill Industries trailer, Columbia Center Mall parking lot, 100 Col. Center Blvd, Kennewick

#### **Franklin County**

- Tommy's Steel and Salvage, 904 South Oregon Avenue, Pasco: (509) 547-0100
- Pasco Goodwill Industries Store, 307 W. Columbia Street, Pasco
- Goodwill Industries collection trailer, Walmart parking lot, 4820 Road 68, Pasco

The E-Cycle Washington program does not allow for community redistribution or reuse of the equipment. All equipment is processed for recycling in Western Washington. For more information, visit the [program's website](#).

### **Disposal By Incineration**

Columbia Industry in Kennewick will accept boxes of technology information for a fee of \$10. That includes disks, video tapes, x-rays, film ribbons, audiotapes and prescription bottles. Hard drives cost between \$3 and \$5 each to have destroyed. No monitors or printers are accepted. Contact Columbia Industry at (509) 582-4142.

### **Manufacturer Take-Back Programs**

Some electronic manufacturers will take back their devices. Visit their websites for more information. Hazardous waste questions can be directed to Benton County Solid Waste, 736-3084 x5682.

## ELECTRONICS

Local stores take a variety of electronics for recycling or trade-in. These may include but are not limited to:

### **Best Buy**

6809 West Canal Drive  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 737-0441

### **Staples Office Supply Stores**

1480 Tapteal Drive  
Richland, WA 99336  
(509) 374-8878

Accepts copiers, printers, computer hard drives, monitors (including flat screens), laptop computers and all-in-one machines for a fee of \$10 per item. This fee covers the processing and shipping costs. Questions on specific electronics and associated fees should be directed to the local Staples Store.

### **Office Depot**

1717 George Washington Way  
Richland, WA 99354  
(509) 946-3747

6815 West Canal Drive  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 783-5665

Office Depot has launched an electronics recycling program at all of its North American retail locations. The tech recycling service recycles all types of personal electronics, from digital cameras to computers, by buying the appropriate-sized tech recycling box at Office Depot stores. The boxes sell for \$5, \$10 and \$15 and include all shipping and handling. Customers take the box home and fill it with used electronic devices, including cords and cables, and return the unsealed box to the store.

### **Broken? Repairable? Recyclable?**

If it's working, find a new home for it, if it's not, get it fixed. If all else fails, recycle the metal parts. Contact a local steel or metal recycling for more information.

## E-CIGS

Some E-Cig companies offer free recycling take-back of the cartridges, chargers and batteries. For example, major tobacco company RJ Reynolds offers free postage-paid take-back for its Vuse brand.

The batteries, especially the rechargeable lithium batteries should be recycled. Area recyclers include Office Depot, Home Depot, TC Batteries, Best Buy, Lowes, The Battery Store-Plus Bulbs.

## MEDICAL WASTE

### **Residents**

**Medication** should never be flushed down the toilet or drain; instead, participate in take-back programs offered by Costco Pharmacy or the collection event at the Richland Police Department.

## MEDICAL WASTE CONTINUED...

Another way to dispose of medication is to mix them with an undesirable substance, such as kitty litter, coffee grounds or unwanted latex paint. Place into a container with a lid, mix thorough (if paint, allow it to harden) and place in the trash.

**Needles** should be placed in a plastic container, such as a used soda bottle, with a screw-on lid. When the bottle is full, simply place it in the trash.

### **Businesses that generate medical waste**

Those who generate a large amount of medical waste are required to use a certified disposal company who provides approved containers and disposes of them according to state law. This material must be handled correctly to protect human health and the environment.

There are several disposal companies to choose from, go online or to the phonebook and look for medical waste disposal.

### **Resources**

- [Washington Unwanted Medicine Return Program](#)
- [Pharmaceuticals with Recommendations on Disposal](#)

## PAINT

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, latex paint is the third highest item (by weight) collected by moderate risk waste facilities. Latex paint is not classified as a hazardous waste, but in its liquid form, is not acceptable as trash. Please follow the guidelines below to reduce, reuse, recycle or properly prepare your unwanted paint for disposal.

Full or partially full containers can be given away to family, friends, neighbors, a non-profit organization, or view the [Five Point Program for Leftover Paint](#).

### **Harden your latex paint and place in the trash**

Mix paint hardener (hardware store), kitty litter, saw dust, or shredded paper in a partially filled container of latex paint and let it dry – then simply, place in the garbage can.

**Questions on hazardous waste? Call (509) 736-3084 x5682.**

## SMOKE DETECTOR

The average household smoke detector contains a small amount of radioactive substance (Americium-241) that should not go into landfills. Unfortunately, the only disposal method is to return it to the manufacturer for disposal. Check the manufacturer's name on your detector and contact them for proper disposal instructions.

You should also check with your local post office about shipping restrictions and costs before packaging it up for mailing.

**For more information contact Benton County Solid Waste, 509-736-3084 x5682.**