



Residents stay in their vehicle, as ERG employees do all the work.

Do Your Part for the Environment

Residents can unload hazardous waste products at drop-off event

You don't have to venture far from your front door to find hazardous waste.

Maybe you've stashed some antifreeze and pesticide in the garage. Or you've stored paint thinner and ammonia in the basement.

Bleach sits on a laundry room shelf and drain cleaner is under the sink. That old computer monitor in your home office? Yes, that's hazardous waste, too.

"Some of this stuff just can't go into a recycling bin. Or in your yard waste bag or trash can. It needs to be handled in a different way because it's hazardous or toxic," says Mike Csapo, general manager of the Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC).

"In a lot of cases it also has value. These materials – old oil and paints and thinners – are combustibles that can be used as combustible fuel. So, instead of putting them into the trash and having them leach into the environment, let's get some energy use out of them. If it's something that's got some recyclable content, let's recycle it and get it back into the value chain."

RRRASOC, the solid waste authority for Novi and eight other Oakland County municipalities, makes recycling hazardous materials

easy and safe through its household hazardous waste days, held in member communities throughout the year.



BY THE NUMBERS

Novi's 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Day was a huge success. Here are some of the stats:

- 1,852 participants – 65 percent were from Novi, 20 percent were from Farmington Hills, and the rest came from other communities in the Authority.
- 115,940 pounds of material collected – nearly 63 pounds per participant.
- 68,440 pounds consisted of electronic waste, such as television sets, radios, keyboards, printers, monitors, and computers.
- 941 pounds of expired medications were collected.
- 884 pounds of propane tanks were collected.
- 12 pounds consisted of mercury-containing devices.

Novi will host the next household hazardous waste day, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Road. A truck with a document shredder also will be on hand.

Collection Events

"In the late 1990s, one of the things that we determined made sense is to have a collaborative household hazardous waste collection program," Csapo said. "What you'll see throughout much of Michigan is that communities have either no drop-off events or drop-off locations for hazardous materials, or they may have a single event each year."

Csapo says just one event annually doesn't give residents enough opportunities to dispose of materials that may be corrosive, combustible and toxic. It's also costlier for each

member community to manage their own annual household hazardous waste event. Allowing the Authority to hire one hazardous waste handler for several events that are open to all member communities cut costs by about two-thirds.

"I talked to the RRRASOC directors about the fact that we could do these collection events a better way. We'd have economies of scale," he said. "It would be a bigger contract. It wouldn't be just a 400-person event in Wixom, but a 5,000-6,000-person event over a number of events throughout the year. So, we got much better pricing than the communities were used to."

Collaboration gives residents more opportunities for hazardous waste disposal, without requiring each community to add more events. All RRRASOC hazardous household waste days are open to all residents in its member communities.

"They have six events each year to which they can take materials," Csapo said. "We have four in the spring and two in the fall."

Residents also may drop off household hazardous waste for free on an appointment basis at ERG Environmental Services in Livonia, the Authority's household hazardous waste handler.

Drive In

More than 6,000 residents from member communities attended household hazardous waste events last year. Csapo says that number has grown by about 16 percent this year.

"We had 1,852 people at the event in Novi last year, so it's really well-received," he said.

He attributes the increase to a growing public awareness of recycling and its advantages.

"There are studies out there that show more jobs are created through recycling than if you dispose of something," Csapo said. "I'd also like to think these events are well run. They are in and out of there in 10-15 minutes."

Csapo says residents stay in their vehicles as they are checked in, as ERG's staff collects the household hazardous waste from their trunk.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

How to identify and properly dispose of HHW

Many products used to paint, clean, and maintain our homes, gardens and yards contain chemicals that may be toxic to human health and the environment when disposed of improperly.



RRRASOC

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is products used in and around your home that have one or more of the following characteristics: **Corrosivity; Toxicity; Flammability; Reactivity.** Read the label to determine which products require special handling. Warnings such as "poisonous or toxic", "flammable or ignitable", or "corrosive" are indicators that the items should be disposed of as HHW. Cleaners that contain strong acids, bleach or ammonia are also hazardous.

Paint and paint products that are oil-based and require the use of paint thinner or mineral spirits are hazardous. Water-based paints are not hazardous and can be prepared for safe disposal with household trash. To prepare latex paint for curbside pickup, mix paint with an absorbent such as cat litter, sawdust, or commercial paint hardener. Once the paint is solidified, place it in a trash bag and set it out on regular collection day. Learn how to reduce and reuse leftover paint on the RRRASOC website.

What to Do With Unwanted HHW

HHW requires special handling and disposal through licensed hazardous waste companies. Residents are encouraged to bring HHW to a special drop-off event, sponsored by RRRASOC and its member communities. The reverse side of this flyer lists the dates and locations of HHW collection events.



Tips for Transporting Household Hazardous Waste

- Keep items in their original and labeled containers.
- Do not mix the contents of unknown or unlabeled containers.
- Make sure that the containers are not leaking prior to bringing them to a collection event.
- Do not transport containers with open lids.
- Place chemicals away from passengers.
- Secure all containers so they cannot slide, tip or spill contents.



Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County

contact us at 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 online at www.RRRASOC.org or call 248.208.2270

Acceptable materials include batteries, mercury-containing devices, acids, aerosols, pool chemicals, small propane tanks, lighter fluid, glue, electronic items, herbicides and pesticides, antifreeze, used oil, solvents, oil paint, medications and drain cleaners. For a complete list see rrrasoc.org.

"We get a lot of oil-based paint. We get a lot of batteries, a lot of pesticides, and an awful lot of motor oil."

Explosives, radioactive waste, smoke detectors, business waste, latex paint, and unknown liquids over five gallons are not accepted. Latex paint is water-based and not hazardous and should be allowed to dry out and then be placed in the trash.

"We aren't going to use public resources to treat something as hazardous when it's not," Csapo said. "People should know that if we send something home with you it's because it's not hazardous and you can manage it at home."

The Authority, formed in 1989, enables member communities to collaborate on solid waste management projects and recycling efforts, such as the RRRASOC Materials Recovery Facility, built in 1994. Recyclable materials are processed, stored and shipped from the Southfield building, which is publicly owned and privately operated.