

# Household hazardous waste (HHW)

Household hazardous waste includes a wide variety of common household products. Although HHW represents less than 1% of all waste produced by Québec households, it is largely responsible for increasing landfill toxicity levels. Disposing of HHW in your regular household refuse is prohibited. Pouring or flushing HHW substances down the drain where they will enter the sewage system can have serious adverse effects on the environment.

These products are corrosive, flammable, oxidizers, toxic or explosive and constitute:

- Physical hazards (explosion)
- Health hazards
- Environmental hazards

These materials must be handled, stored and transported with care.

By recovering HHW on a permanent basis at the écocentres and by temporary sites collections on a seasonal basis, the Montréal urban agglomeration aims to:

- Protect the environment against potential sources of contamination
- Ensure that citizens do not store, in their home and for long periods, waste material that could be potentially dangerous to human health.



## Recognizing HHW

One or more of the following symbols appear on most household hazardous product containers.



**CORROSIVE:** This product will burn the skin, eyes and if swallowed, the throat and digestive system. This product may corrode metals.



**FLAMMABLE:** This product or the vapours it releases will ignite if placed near a heat source, flames or sparks. A rag soaked with this product may also ignite spontaneously.



**TOXIC:** This product may cause discomforts or death if it is swallowed, licked, or touched or inhaled.



**EXPLOSIVE:** This container may explode if heated or punctured. Metal or glass fragments may cause serious injury, especially to eyes.



**OXIDIZER:** This product causes or favours the combustion of other materials by releasing oxygen.

**EMERGENCY**  
911



**POISON CONTROL CENTRE**  
1 800 463-5060

Prepared by the *Service de l'environnement*, in association with the *Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal*.

## Examples of HHW

Adhesives, tar, epoxy, stripper



Mercury (thermometers)



Spray cans



Paint (latex, alkyd, enamels), stains, lacquers, primers, rust inhibitor, varnish, aluminum paint, acrylic sealant, wood preservative, linseed oil



Unbroken compact fluorescent lights and fluorescent tubes



Pesticides and fertilizers



Automotive batteries (acid/lead)



Batteries



Propane tanks or cylinders



Pool chemicals



Used motor oil, empty containers, filters



Household and cleaning products, drain pipe cleaners, degreasers



Vegetable oils



Turpentine, Varsol, gasoline, fuel, thinner, alcohol, shellac



## Safety instructions

- Use HHW according to recommended use and supplier restrictions.
- Read label carefully. For more information, refer to the material safety data sheet.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, footwear).

## Precautions for handling

- Do not mix or transfer HHW, to avoid dangerous chemical reactions (release of heat/gas) and compromising recycling.
- Do not smoke when handling or in the storage location.
- Wash hands with soap and water after handling.

## How to keep HHW

- Store in original airtight containers. Seal tightly.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Store in a cool, dry and well-ventilated place.
- Keep away from heat sources and electrical boxes.

## How to store HHW

- Keep products no higher than eye level.
- Avoid storing caustic (base) and acid products close to each other.

## How to handle liquid mercury

Place liquid mercury in a sealed, airtight container. Cover with water to avoid vapours from being released.

## Special storage – flammable and combustible liquids \*

The maximum amount of flammable or combustible liquids that may be stored indoors:

- Inside a housing unit: 30 litres in total, including no more than 10 litres of flammable liquid.
- Inside a garage or premises next to a housing unit: 50 litres in total, including no more than 30 litres of flammable liquid.

It is strictly prohibited to store flammable or combustible liquids on balconies.

Keep containers of flammable or combustible liquids tightly sealed and keep liquids in their original containers.

Replace damaged containers with approved containers.

Never transfer to another container indoors.

\* Flammable liquids may catch fire easily at room temperature and burn vigorously. Combustible substances will sustain a fire and give off a lot of heat when burning.

## Suggestions

- Look for safer alternative products.
- Buy in small quantities.
- Avoid stocking large quantities.

## Dropping off HHW safely at an écocentre or a temporary sites location

- HHW must be kept in their original containers, whenever possible.
- Containers must be well identified.
- Do not drop off HHW at an écocentre or a temporary sites location when no attendants are on duty.

## How to transport HHW safely

- Place HHW in sturdy boxes to prevent products from spilling or moving around.
- Flammable and combustible products as well as pesticides must be transported in containers that are designed for this purpose and outside a vehicle's passenger compartment.
- Transport HHW in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Leave at least one window open.
- Never transport HHW in the same vehicle as other combustible material (fabric, cardboard).

## Propane tanks – caution

- Always leave propane tanks outdoors, summer and winter.
- Place propane tanks inside the vehicle in an upright position, to prevent them from moving or being struck by objects.
- Leave a window open.
- Shut the tank valve and put the safety cap in place.

## Montrealers in the urban agglomeration wishing to get rid of HHW have three options.

**1** Drop off their products, on a regular basis, at one of the following écocentres:

ÉCOCENTRE ACADIE  
1200, boul. Henri-Bourassa Ouest

ÉCOCENTRE CÔTE-DES-NEIGES  
6925, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges

ÉCOCENTRE LA PETITE-PATRIE  
1100, rue des Carrières

ÉCOCENTRE LASALLE  
7272, rue Saint-Patrick

ÉCOCENTRE RIVIÈRE-DES-PRAIRIES  
11400, rue Léopold-Christin  
(near 9255, boulevard Henri-Bourassa Est)

ÉCOCENTRE SAINT-LAURENT  
3535, rue Sartelon

ÉCOCENTRE SAINT-MICHEL  
2475, rue des Regrattiers  
(extension of Rue d'Iberville, north of Rue Jarry)

[montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)

**2** Drop off their products, on a seasonal basis, at temporary sites in the boroughs, or related municipalities located far from an Écocentre. For dates and locations, please check the HHW collection calendar at your borough office or city hall, or visit: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)

**3** Return their products to the points of sale as part of the Extended Producer Responsibility Program:

- Several hardware stores recover leftover paint. [ecopeinture.ca](http://ecopeinture.ca)
- Service stations recover used oil, engine antifreeze, empty containers and filters. [soghu.com](http://soghu.com)
- Service stations recover automotive batteries.
- Pharmacies accept expired medication and syrups.
- BBQ propane tanks may be returned at any filling station.
- Batteries may be dropped off at several retail stores and other deposit sites. [appelarecycler.ca](http://appelarecycler.ca)
- Mercury lamps (fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lights) may be returned to any RecycFluo deposit site. [recycfluo.ca](http://recycfluo.ca)
- Electronic products may be returned to any official ARPE-Québec official site. [recyclermeselectroniques.ca](http://recyclermeselectroniques.ca)

**For more information:**  
[recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca)