

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

There are two different types of household hazardous waste collection days sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

### Paint and Oil Collections

**Acceptable materials:** Used motor oil, oil-based paint, oil-based stain, and oil-based paint related products (such as paint remover and stripper.) Latex paint and empty paint cans are not accepted. Dried latex paint can be thrown in the trash. Give away usable latex paint through [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org).

**Locations:** Rotate between two towns: Great Barrington and Lenox.

**Dates and Times:** Visit [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org) for the current schedule. Or, call CET at 1-800-238-1221 ext. 14. These collections occur seven times throughout the spring, summer and fall.

### Comprehensive Collections

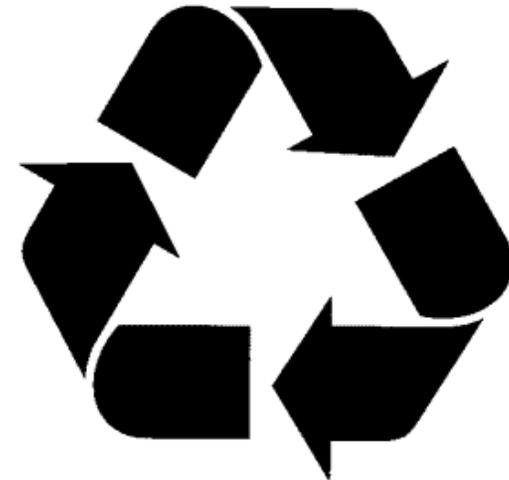
**Acceptable materials include:** oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, wood preservatives, paint strippers/thinners, solvent adhesives, lighter fluid, fuels/gasoline/kerosene, antifreeze, degreasers, driveway sealer, brake fluid/carburetor cleaner, transmission fluid, car wax, polishes, roofing tar, pool chemicals, poisons, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers, weed killers, moth balls, flea control products, rubber cement, airplane glue, fiberglass resins, photo chemicals, chemistry sets, floor and metal polish, oven cleaner, drain and toilet cleaner, spot remover, rug and upholstery cleaner, hobby/artist supplies, mercury thermometers, thermostats, button batteries, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs. Televisions and computers may be accepted for a fee.

**Locations:** Rotate between three towns: Great Barrington, Stockbridge and Lee

**Dates and Times:** Email [cet@cetonline.org](mailto:cet@cetonline.org) or call CET at 1-800-238-1221 ext. 14. These collections occur two times throughout the summer and fall.

Additional items may be accepted at future collections. Call a steering committee member (see the inside front cover), CET at 1-800-238-1221 or visit the Events page on [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org) for an updated list of acceptable materials and a current schedule of collections.

**How to reduce, reuse,  
and recycle common  
household items, and  
dispose of  
household hazardous  
materials.**



For towns in the **Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program** (Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham and West Stockbridge)

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

Dear Resident,

Does your basement or garage have a box full of household chemicals that you aren't sure what to do with? Have you ever wondered how to get rid of an old television in a way that's safe for the environment? Do you have an old mercury thermometer that you don't know how to dispose of safely?

This guide contains information about proper disposal and recycling of common household items that shouldn't be thrown in the trash. Some of the items in this guide are considered **hazardous waste**. Hazardous waste is waste that can catch fire, react, or explode, or that is toxic or corrosive. If you throw hazardous waste in the trash, it can be dangerous for the workers who pick up your garbage or work at your transfer station. Hazardous chemicals can end up in our water or air when trash is incinerated or if a landfill leaks. If you pour hazardous waste down the drain, it can contaminate your septic system, well or the wastewater treatment plant.

Other items discussed in this guide aren't hazardous, but still shouldn't be thrown out. Some items can be brought to your transfer station, while others need to be brought to a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection (page 11). Still others are accepted by area businesses. Many items can be recycled and enjoy a second life instead of ending up in a landfill or incinerator.

In many cases, alternative products that are safer for you - and the environment - exist. This guide mentions some alternatives, and gives suggestions for obtaining further information.

This guide was printed by the South Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative. It was prepared in 2005 and updated in 2009 by the Center for Ecological Technology. The information in this booklet was the best available in 2009. Please call businesses, town halls, and other locations to confirm hours and fees.

**South Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative Steering Committee:**

Joe Sokul (Great Barrington)	413-528-0867
Greg Federspiel (Lenox)	413-637-5500
Peter Kolodziej (Tri Town Health)	413-243-5540
David Steindler (Sheffield)	413-229-2628
Mark Webber (West Stockbridge)	413-232-0319

For more information on your town's transfer station, including hours of operation, fees and necessary permits, contact your town hall:

Alford	528-4536
Becket	623-8934
Egremont	528-0182
Great Barrington	528-3140
Monterey	528-1443
Mt. Washington	528-2839
New Marlborough	229-8116
Otis	269-0101
Sheffield	229-7000
Stockbridge	298-4170
Tyringham	243-1749
West Stockbridge	232-0302

The following towns do not have transfer stations:

Lee	243-5501	
Lenox	637-5500	
Richmond	698-3355	<i>free curbside recycling pick-up</i>

For more information about this booklet, or about regional household hazardous waste collection days for your community:

- Contact one of the steering committee members listed on the inside of the front cover
- Call CET at 1-800-238-1221
- Visit [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org)



*The Center for Ecological Technology (CET), a non-profit community based environmental organization, demonstrates and promotes practical, affordable solutions to the environmental challenges encountered in our daily activities, focusing on waste, energy and resource conservation.*

### OVEN CLEANERS:

- Mix three tablespoons of washing soda with one quart of warm water
- Place liners in oven to catch drips during baking
- Sprinkle salt on spills while the spill is warm and then scrub
- Clean spills using steel wool and baking soda

### OUTDOOR PESTICIDES:

- Plant varieties that are pest and disease resistant
- Physically remove some pests, like Japanese beetles, cabbage moth worms, and tent caterpillars
- Promote plant health by testing for pH and nutrient levels in soil. Water, prune, use compost and mulch properly.

### RAT POISON:

- Put a screen over drains
- Use mechanical snap traps for mice and rats

### RUG DEODORIZER:

- Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary.

### SCOURING POWDER:

- Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub
- Use steel wool

### SILVER POLISH:

- Boil 2 to 3 inches of water in a shallow pan with 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and a sheet of aluminum foil. Totally submerge silver and boil for 2 to 3 more minutes. Wipe away tarnish. Repeat if necessary. *Do not use this method on antique silver.*
- Use non-abrasive toothpaste

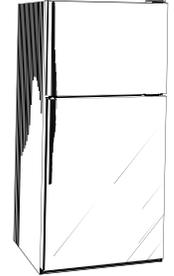
### SNAIL & SLUG BAIT:

- Place a shallow pan with beer in the infested area. Slugs are attracted to the smell and drown in the beer. To be effective, the beer must be changed every day or two.
- Overturn clay pots; snails take shelter in them during sunny days and thus can be collected and removed.

## Appliances

### Appliances that contain CFCs (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers):

*Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) damage the ozone layer when they are released into the environment. Special care must be taken in removing them from appliances.*

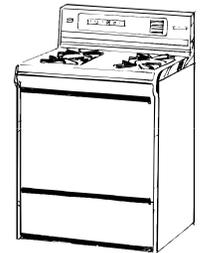


- **Sayers Auto Wrecking** (443-1635) in Lanesborough accepts appliances that contain CFCs.
- **Sears** (644-9691) in Great Barrington will remove CFCs (\$40 fee) or will accept an old appliance for a fee with purchase of a new appliance.

- **CFC appliances will be accepted at transfer stations (fee may apply) in Becket, Egremont, West Stockbridge, Monterey and Sheffield (with CFC removal tag)**

### Appliances that do not contain CFCs (microwaves, washing machines, stoves, dryers, etc.):

*These appliances can be recycled as scrap metal.*



- **Perlman & Sons** (54 South Merriam St., Pittsfield, 442-7127) accepts appliances without CFCs.
- **George Apkin & Sons Inc** (80 State St., North Adams, 664-4936) accepts white goods and light steel (no microwaves).

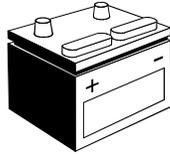
- **Non-CFC appliances will be accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield (no fee), Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge.**

- **Richmond residents can drop off bulky items and white goods at the town garage.**

## Automotive Products

### Car Batteries

- **Formel Motor Company** (21 Van Deusenville Road, Great Barrington, 528-9424) accepts car batteries free of charge. Please call to confirm.
- **Perlman & Sons** (54 South Merriam St., Pittsfield, 442-7127) accepts car batteries and pays market rate. Please call to confirm.
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Monterey**



### Tires

- Most tire dealerships recycle your old tires when you purchase new ones. Taking advantage of this service is the easiest way to dispose of old tires. Even if you aren't purchasing new tires, many tire dealerships and some garages will accept your old tires for a fee.*
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Becket, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis and Stockbridge**



### Motor Oil

- DO NOT mix with gasoline, antifreeze, or cleaning solvents, or the motor oil may not be recyclable.*
- By law, any business that sells motor oil in Massachusetts is required to accept it back for recycling. Most places require a receipt, so be sure to save it.*
- Some area businesses that change oil will accept small amounts of used motor oil for recycling. Check with your local garage.*
- **Jiffy Lube** (448-2400) accepts up to 6 quarts of used motor oil.
  - Bring used motor oil to a regional paint and oil collection (p. 11)
  - **Accepted at the following transfer stations: Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis and Stockbridge**



### Other automotive fluids (antifreeze, transmission fluid, etc.):

- DO NOT mix with oil, gasoline or any other chemicals, or the fluid may not be recyclable.*
- Some **Jiffy Lubes** will accept small amounts of car fluids for recycling.
  - Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)

### COPPER CLEANER:

- Pour vinegar and salt over copper and rub

### DEODORIZERS & AIR FRESHENERS:

- Open windows or use exhaust fans
- A small dish of white vinegar can get rid of kitchen odors
- An open box of baking soda placed in the refrigerator reduces odors
- Fresh cut flowers or dried flower petals and spices can add scent to a room; boiling potpourri or cinnamon and cloves in water will also produce a nice aroma!

### DETERGENTS (laundry & dishwashing):

- Replace detergents with soaps that are *less toxic* and *biodegradable*. To wash out residues from detergents, pre-wash in washing soda\*. **Avoid phosphates.**

### DRAIN OPENERS:

- To prevent clogs, put 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup white vinegar down the drain. Wait 15 minutes, then pour boiling water down the drain.
- Use plumber's helper (plunger) or a plumber's snake

### FLEA & TICK PRODUCTS:

- Put brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food
- Sprinkle fennel, rue, rosemary, or eucalyptus seeds and leaves around the area where animal sleeps

### FLOOR CLEANERS:

- Use soap and water
- Use washing soda and water
- Use white vinegar and water

### FURNITURE POLISH:

- Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of mineral or vegetable oil

### ALL PURPOSE CLEANSERS:

- Mix 1/4 cup white vinegar in 1 quart water, add lemon juice for scent. Put mixture in a spray bottle. Label the bottle.
- Mix three tablespoons washing soda in one quart of warm water
- Use baking soda with a small amount of water

### GLASS AND WINDOW CLEANERS:

- Use cornstarch and water
- Mix one-half cup of white vinegar and one quart warm water; wipe with newspaper
- Use lemon juice and dry with a soft cloth

### MOTH BALLS:

- Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns

\*Washing soda – crystalline sodium carbonate

## Pesticides/Herbicides

*Chemical pesticides include weed killers, insect killers, insect repellent, flea and tick repellants and collars, and rodent killers. Pesticides have been linked to cancers and development problems. Pesticides can also harm songbirds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.*

- For more information on less toxic lawns and gardens, contact CET at 1-800-238-1221 ext. 14.
- Pesticides are hazardous waste and should never be thrown out in the trash or flushed down the toilet.
- Bring these items to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)

## Medical Waste

### Unwanted Medications and Prescription Drugs:

- *Do not flush down toilet or put down the drain! Email or call CET for more specific information about proper disposal of unwanted medications.*

### Sharps:

- Accepted at Berkshire Medical Center and Town of Egremont (Residents only)

## Safer Alternatives to Toxic Products

*The following is a list of safer substitutes for some household toxics. Generally these products can be purchased in any grocery store.*

### ANT CONTROL:

- Sprinkle cream of tartar in front of the ant's path. Ants will not cross over it!
- Caulk and seal openings in walls
- Clean up spills
- Store food in airtight containers

### BUG SPRAY:

- Place screens on windows and doors. Cover baby carriages and playpens with mosquito netting.
  - Brewer's yeast tablets taken daily give skin a scent that mosquitoes seem to avoid

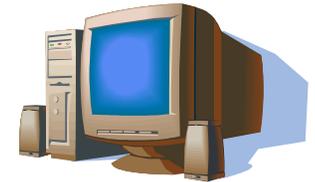
### CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS:

- Use compost, compost tea and organic fertilizers.

## Electronics

### Televisions, Computers, and Computer Monitors:

*The average Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) contains between five and eight pounds of lead encased in the glass screen. CRTs (which are part of televisions and computer monitors) are banned from landfills and incinerators to prevent the release of hazardous chemicals, like lead, into the environment. The heavy metals in computers and televisions have been linked to certain cancers, as well as nervous system, reproductive, and developmental problems. Computers also contain metals that can be recycled.*



- **Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires** accepts televisions, computers, and computer monitors for recycling. Call for pricing; 442-0061.
- **Best Buy (Berkshire Mall)** accepts all electronics. [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com) or contact your local store for more information.
- Televisions and computers may be accepted at some regional comprehensive HHW collections (p. 11)
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield (no fee), and Stockbridge.**

### Cell phones:

*Cell phones contain lead, arsenic, cadmium, and other toxins which can be released into the air and water if cell phones are thrown in the trash. These substances can be harmful to human health and the environment.*



- **The Wireless Zone, Radio Shack, and the Center for Ecological Technology** in Pittsfield accept cell phones for recycling at no charge.
- **Cell phones are accepted for recycling at the following locations: The Town Halls of Alford, Becket, Egremont, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, Otis, Tri Town Health Department in Lee and the Sheffield Transfer Station.**

## Items that contain mercury

*Mercury is a neurotoxin that is found in some common household items. When items that contain mercury are thrown in the trash, the mercury enters our air and water. It accumulates as it travels up the food chain, and fish which contain mercury can be harmful, especially to children and pregnant women. One way to keep mercury out of the environment is to properly dispose of items that contain mercury.*

### Fluorescent Bulbs (tube and compact):

- Store bulbs in a box or fiber drum to prevent breakage
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)
- **Accepted at the following transfer stations (fee may apply): Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey (no fee), Otis (no fee), Sheffield (no fee), Stockbridge (no fee), West Stockbridge (no fee). Also accepted at the Richmond Town Hall and Home Depot (no fee)**

### Thermostats:

*Dial thermostats (not digital thermostats) often contain mercury*

- Accepted for recycling at **Berkshire County Plumbing Supply** (Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, 528-0056) and the **Center for Ecological Technology** in Pittsfield
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)
- Accepted at the following transfer stations: Sheffield, Egremont



### Thermometers:

- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)
- **Accepted at Tri Town Health in Lee**



### Batteries:

*Rechargeable batteries and button batteries contain mercury as well as other heavy metals.*

- **Radio Shack** in Great Barrington and Pittsfield accepts rechargeable batteries for recycling.
- Bring to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11)

## Paints, Stains and Thinners

### Oil-Based Paint

*Oil-based paint is a hazardous material. Choose latex paint instead of oil-based paint whenever possible. If you do purchase oil-based paint, choose the smallest possible container in order to avoid leftovers. Offer leftover paint to friends and relatives or list on [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org).*



- Bring oil-based paint to a regional paint and oil collection (p. 11)
- **Accepted at the Great Barrington transfer station**

### Latex Paint

*Latex paint is not a hazardous material.*

- Give leftover paint to friends or relatives or [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org)
- Leave the lid off and let the paint dry to a completely solid state before putting it in the trash. Mix in kitty litter and/or sand and it will help speed the process.

## Household Cleaners

*Many household cleaners contain flammable or toxic ingredients, and other ingredients that are harmful to the environment, such as phosphates and chlorine.*

- *Signal words* on product labels tell you how toxic a product is. Products labeled *Danger* or *Poison* are the most toxic. Those labeled *Warning* or *Caution* are of medium toxicity. Products that don't have any signal words on the label are not considered hazardous by the federal government. They may still contain hazardous chemical ingredients, but the amounts are considered too small to be of concern.
- Less toxic and environmentally friendly household cleaners are available. Choose products **without** the signal words *Danger*, *Poison*, *Warning* or *Caution*. Look for products that do not contain phosphates or chlorine. Products labeled *Safe for Septic* are also less toxic.
- You can make your own non-toxic cleaning products from baking soda and vinegar. Call CET at 1-800-238-1221 for more information on non-toxic cleaning product recipes.
- Bring any products that are flammable or toxic to a regional comprehensive HHW collection (p. 11). Check the label of the product for the words *flammable*, *poison*, or *danger*.