

MERCED COUNTY
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Household Hazardous Materials Safety

Batteries, used oil, flammable substances, and household chemicals make up the majority of the hazardous materials that are stored and handled at home. Learn the proper steps you can take to keep yourself and your loved ones safe while handling and storing hazardous materials at home.



BATTERIES

- Place tape over battery terminals before disposal or recycling to minimize the risk of a fire.
- Replace wet or damaged batteries.
- Keep lithium batteries in a cool dry place.
- Only use lithium batteries designed for the device you want to charge.
- Avoid overcharging lithium batteries.
- Do not put lithium batteries in household trash.



USED OIL AND FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES

- Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Ensure to place the container on the ground when you fill it.
- Seal and store used oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a cabinet or shed away from your home.
- Keep flammable items on shelves away from appliances.
- Keep oily rags in a well-ventilated area and away from heat sources.



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

- Follow instructions on the label for proper handling and storage.
- Store household chemicals in their original containers.
- Never store household chemicals that can cause a fire in the sun or near an open flame or heat source.
- Store household chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- Do not mix products. This can cause deadly gases or cause a fire.
- Wear gloves and/or goggles when using household chemicals.

Disposal: Household hazardous materials become a waste when they can no longer be used for their intended purpose, and should be disposed of as per instructions on the label. The Merced County Regional Waste Authority hosts Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events on a quarterly basis in Merced and Los Banos. For more information regarding upcoming HHW collection events near you, please visit: <http://mcrwma.org/Calendar.aspx>

For additional resources on how to properly dispose of electronic waste (e-waste) and used oil, visit the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) website: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/> and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) website: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/universalwaste/household-hazardous-waste/>



For Environmental Health questions and information, contact the Division of Environmental Health at (209) 381 - 1100.

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