

Recycle or dispose of unused chemicals

Many garages, backyard sheds, laundries, bathrooms and even kitchens across Australia contain chemicals that can cause serious health hazards to you and the environment. Hazardous waste includes products such as motor oil, brake fluid, kerosene, mineral turpentine (turps), pesticides, batteries and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), oven cleaners and pool chemicals. Some of these products can catch alight at relatively low temperatures, or react with air, water or other substances, and explode or produce toxic vapours.

These products cannot be disposed of in your regular garbage collection, and for many hazardous wastes, it can be illegal to do so. This is because they can leak into the environment and waterways and cause serious health risks.

It's important to manage hazardous waste and dispose of leftover chemicals correctly at a hazardous waste centre. Check with your local council or Planet Ark's Recycling Near You for collection services available in your area.

Before disposal consider whether items can be re-used or recycled. In addition, you may be able to reduce the number of toxic products you need to throw away by changing your shopping habits. Where an alternative exists, such as non-toxic paint, switch to the more natural alternative. Your health and the environment will benefit.

Household chemical products like paint, batteries, gas cylinders, cleaners and insecticides can be safely recycled or disposed of through Sustainability Victoria's free Detox Your Home service. You can use a scheduled mobile service, including for regional areas, or permanent drop off facilities.

Chemicals collected through the service are sorted, placed in sealed drums and transported to a specialist waste treatment facility where they can be recycled or disposed of safely. Contact your local council or check with Sustainability Victoria for your nearest Detox Your Home service or next mobile drop off point.

Sources and further information

Recycling Near You, recyclingnearyou.com.au

www.livinggreener.gov.au

Sustainability Victoria, "Detox Your Home", http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households.html



WATER



ENERGY



WASTE



WELLBEING