



**Household Hazardous Waste  
Questions and Answers for the Residents of West U**

**City of West University Place  
Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board**

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## **What is a household hazardous waste?**

A household hazardous waste (HHW) is any substance in a home that has the potential to cause harm or injury. HHW's are usually described as toxic, corrosive, flammable, or explosive. Examples are paints, batteries, cleaning chemicals, pool chemicals, fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. For more information, see Appendix A "Household Hazardous Waste Inventory".

## **What regulations govern disposal of household hazardous waste?**

Individuals are exempt from all regulations governing disposal of household hazardous waste. The State of Texas and the Environmental Protection Agency have many regulations the City of West University Place (West U) is required to follow. The landfill operator imposes additional regulations on West U and other cities as to the waste collected. Links to these regulations are in Appendix B "Related Links".

## **Why should I not place household hazardous waste in the trash?**

If the container leaks it may:

- Contact our trash collector and cause injury.
- Leak on to our roads during transport to the landfill. Roads and storm sewers drain into Poor Farm Ditch and bayous and this would cause ground water and surface water contamination. West U and Houston still use a few water wells. Water wells are tested regularly for all types of contaminants and the wells would be unusable if contaminated.
- Leak from the landfill into the ground causing ground water contamination.

## **What about the landfill – is leaking a problem?**

Landfills are designed, constructed, and operated differently for the type of waste they will contain. Costs are different for each type of material because of the landfill handling requirements and can be up to \$3000 per ton. Class 1 solid waste are typically described as toxic, corrosive, flammable, or explosive. Class 1 solid waste from households are known as household hazardous waste. Landfills for HHW have many redundant spill prevention and leachate (runoff) collection systems to assure that there is no ground water contamination.

Class 3 or construction materials such as lumber, scraps of wiring, and other insoluble wastes have the least restrictions on their design, construction, and operation. Therefore, Class 3 construction waste landfills are the least expensive. This is one cost savings that West U realizes with the biannual heavy trash day. West U pays about \$XX per ton to dispose of such wastes.

Class 2 solid waste are those that are neither Class 1 (hazardous) or Class 3 (construction) solid wastes. Household trash pickup is Class 2 also known as putrid. The main design and operation of a Class 2 landfill is to minimize odors, reduce vermin, and simple leachate (runoff) collection systems. One of the obligations on West U is that they cannot knowingly pickup hazardous waste.

## **What should I do with household hazardous waste?**

When possible, you should use the household hazardous waste until there is none left.

## **What recycling options do I have with household hazardous waste that I cannot completely use?**

The first option is to share with your neighbors or donate to a community group. If you have left over fertilizer and now use a yard service, you could give the remaining amount to your yard service. For additional options by type of HHW see Appendix C "Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Options".

## What can I do with household hazardous waste that I cannot use or recycle?

Improper disposal of HHW has many impacts, including increased disposal costs, injuries to our trash collectors and contamination of ground water and surface water. Currently WUP residents have two options available to dispose of their HHW. The first is the City of Houston BOPA (battery, oil, paint, antifreeze) facility at 5900 Westpark between Chimney Rock and Fountain View (see map below). There is no cost at this facility and they accept latex paint (no oil based paints), tires, antifreeze, oil and lead acid batteries (auto and marine types). Their hours are Monday-Saturday 9-5. The second option is a voucher program to use the new City of Houston HHW facility on South Main at South Post Oak. Through a generous grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), WUP has purchased a limited number of vouchers (\$75 each) to allow residents to use this service. The facility accepts a broader spectrum of HHW, including oil-based paints, thinners, aerosol cans, pesticides and some chemicals. Their hours are limited so for more information, please call the public works department at 713-662-5839.

## Appendix A “Related Links”

The top link for each site is their home page. The lower links are direct to pages that are more specific to Household Hazardous Waste.

- Texas General Land Office Recycling  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/>  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/recycling>  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/recycling/links.html>
- US Environmental Protection Agency  
<http://www.epa.gov/>  
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/cfr40toc.htm>
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/ Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/index.html>  
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/admin/topdoc/index.html>
- Houston-Galveston Area Council  
<http://www.hgac.cog.tx.us/>  
<http://www.hgac.cog.tx.us/intro/swhhw.html>  
<http://www.hgac.cog.tx.us/resources/sw/swlinks.html>
- Houston  
<http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/swd/>  
<http://www.houston.tx.us/recycling/>

## Appendix B “ Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Options”

The mantra of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle is most important for HHW because the costs of proper and improper disposal is so high. However, there are some HHW items that must be destroyed or landfilled.

<u>HHW</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Ultimate Use</u>
Antifreeze	City of Houston Westpark Consumer Recycling Center (2)	Recycled and reused as antifreeze
Tires	Tire Stores or Auto Garages  City of Houston Westpark Consumer Recycling Center(2)	Most are landfilled. Some are burned in cement kilns where the rubber is used as fuel and the steelbelts aide the chemical Reaction to limestone to cement.
Latex Paints	City of Houston Westpark Consumer Recycling Center (2)	Mixed together for the City of Houston graffiti abatement program (3)

1. City of Houston WestPark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark, telephone (713) 837-9130.
2. City of Houston Recycling web page <http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/swd/>