

Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes



Some waste should never be put in your trash or recycling. Batteries, drain cleaner and other cleaners, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, hair spray, medicines, mercury thermometers, pesticides and herbicides, and unused nail polish and nail polish remover are common items people may not realize should be taken to a drop-off facility. These items may contain hazardous metals or chemicals that require careful disposal.

Hennepin County drop-off facilities

Many items are accepted at Hennepin County drop-off facilities, including:

- Appliances (for a fee)
- Automotive fluids, fuels, oil and lead-acid batteries
- Electronics (some fees apply)
- Household, lawn and garden products, including batteries, cleaning products, fluorescent light bulbs, paints and stains, pesticides, and thermostats and thermometers that contain mercury
- Personal care products including hair spray, nail polish remover, and perfume

Learn more about hazardous waste and other non-hazardous bulky items that are accepted at Hennepin County drop-offs at hennepin.us/drop-offs.

Additional disposal options

These items have additional disposal options.

Batteries

Batteries should be recycled. Some batteries contain toxic metals that can pose a threat to human health and the environment. Use rechargeable batteries to reduce the number you use. To safely store batteries for recycling and prevent fires, place clear tape on both the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals, and place them in a clear plastic bag. Check with your local electronics or hardware store for drop off options or bring to a Hennepin County drop-off facility.

Electronics

If your electronics work, sell them or give them away. If they are broken, bring them to a Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic for help with troubleshooting and repair. If they no longer function and are not repairable, look for manufacturers and retailers with recycling take-back programs or take to a Hennepin County drop-off facility. See the Green Disposal Guide at hennepin.us/greendisposalguide for more details. Before disposing of your items, make sure you remove all personal data and files.

Medicines

Unwanted or unused medicines should be brought to a Hennepin County medicine drop box for safe and proper disposal. All types of medicines from households, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, supplements, and pet medicines, are accepted. Find more information and a map of locations at hennepin.us/medicine.

Sharps

Dispose of sharps safely to prevent injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks. Check with your healthcare provider to see if they accept sharps for disposal, destroy them at home with a needle destruction device, take to a Hennepin County drop-off facility in Brooklyn Park or Bloomington, or use a mail-in program. Store your needles and sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant, plastic container with a screw-on lid, such as an empty laundry detergent bottle. You can also purchase a sharps disposable container from a pharmacy. Due to the risk of breakage, do NOT use a glass container. Visit the Green Disposal Guide at hennepin.us/greendisposalguide and search for Needles and Sharps for more information.

Additional information

Find other disposal options for household hazardous waste at hennepin.us/greendisposalguide or call 612-348-3777.

Get tips for reducing harmful chemicals in your home at hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/reduce-household-hazardous-waste.