



Household Chemicals

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Commonly used household chemicals include: household cleaners, aerosol sprays, automotive supplies (including oil), paints and thinners, stains and varnishes, old art supplies, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, batteries, pesticides and garden chemicals.

If misused or accidentally spilled, some of these chemicals are potentially hazardous to the environment due to their corrosive, flammable or reactive properties.

TIPS FOR THE SAFE USE, HANDLING AND STORAGE OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

- Before buying household chemicals make sure that the label on the container is intact. Purchase the smallest pack or bottle size which best meets your needs to avoid having to store unused chemicals.
- Read the label before using the chemical and follow the instructions. Pay particular attention to safety precautions.
- Do not use date-expired chemicals.
- Handle chemicals in a well ventilated area.
- Do not prepare chemical mixes in areas where an accidental spill could run into the stormwater drain.
- Only prepare the volume of spray mix necessary to complete the task to avoid having to dispose of unused portions.
- Wash hands and remove protective clothing prior to eating, drinking or smoking.
- Keep chemicals only in original containers, closed tightly and labelled.
- Check chemical containers frequently for leaks, deterioration and tears or loose lids.

- Take precautions against potential fire hazards when using flammable, hazardous chemicals.
- Many chemicals must not be stored together (check the label).
- Store pesticides, pool chemicals and flammable chemicals in a storage shed away from the house. Store other chemicals such as cleaning agents in a locked cupboard out of the reach of children. Do not store any chemicals near food storage areas.

BANNED CHEMICALS

The following chemicals are either banned or require a permit to use: 2,4,5-T, Ethylene dibromide, Arsenic compounds, Cyhexatin, Tributyltin, Phenyl mercuric acetate, DDT, Heptachlor, Endrin, Lindane, Chlordane, Aldrin, Chlordimeform and Sodium fluoracetate(1080). If you suspect you may have one of these, please contact the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED NON-BANNED HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

In the first instance, offer to give unwanted household chemicals to a friend or neighbour who may wish to use them. Environment ACT will collect small quantities of unwanted chemicals from ACT households free of charge. To arrange collection of chemicals please contact the EPA by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Businesses should contact the EPA for advice.

Disposal options for most chemicals are listed in the following table.



Chemical	Contact	Phone
Pesticides (unwanted, banned or out of date), solvents, cleaning agents/detergents, paint thinners such as turpentine, paint containing lead, printing and photographic chemicals and chemicals containing silver, laboratory waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EPA (by calling Canberra Connect) 	13 22 81
Fire extinguishers (since 1996, it has been illegal to have yellow BCF extinguishers, except on aircraft or if you have an environmental authorisation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Your local fire brigade ■ Collection bins inside landfill gates 	
Nicad phone batteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contact local mobile phone company—collected under industry stewardship program 	
Car batteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MG Metals Fyshwick ■ MetalMart Fyshwick ■ Collection areas inside landfill gates 	6280 5343 6239 2422
Used motor and heating oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oil recycling depot inside landfill gates ■ Canberra Oil Disposals ■ Nationwide Oil 	0407 896 092 0408 470 265
Cooking oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Canberra Cooking Oil Recyclers ■ Waste Away 	0417 803 024 6260 1288
Petrol (old and used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local service station or the EPA (by calling Canberra Connect) 	13 22 81
Brake fluid (householder quantities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local service station or the EPA (by calling Canberra Connect) 	13 22 81
Gas cylinders and explosives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dangerous Goods Inspectorate 	6207 6355
Radioactive material excluding domestic smoke detectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Radiation Officer, Department of Health 	6247 2899
Domestic smoke detectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EPA (by calling Canberra Connect) 	13 22 81
Unwanted medicines and other pharmaceuticals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pharmaceutical Society or your local chemist 	6283 4777
Paint—dried	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Crush and place in household recycling bin or normal garbage 	
Paint—liquid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collection areas inside landfill gates 	