

Hazardous Material Lesson

Here you will learn about hazardous materials & how to get rid of them in the right way.

Hazardous materials can be dangerous & can cause harm to people, animals, & the environment if they are not properly stored, used, or disposed of. Some examples are paint, household cleaners, lawn chemicals, nail polish, oil, gasoline, & batteries.

Think about the different products or items you have at home. What might be hazardous? Some examples are nail polish remover, batteries, spray paint & aerosols, thermometer, kitchen or bathroom cleaner, lawn & garden chemicals, light bulbs, & needles.

Words on a label can hint that the item is hazardous:

- toxic, poison
- danger, hazard, caution, warning
- flammable (causes fire)
- corrosive (hurts or burns skin)
- explosive (blows up)
- radioactive (releases radiation)
- oxidizer (harmful when mixed with oxygen)

Symbols on a label or container can hint that the item is hazardous, such as a flames symbol means a substance is flammable or a skull symbol means a substance is poison.

It is normal to have some hazardous materials around the house, as they are helpful for regular tasks like cleaning the bathroom, painting a room, or replacing oil in a car.

It is important to be careful with hazardous materials. Do not play with, eat, or drink hazardous materials. Always read the directions on the container label to learn how to use & store an item.

Hazardous materials can be unsafe when mixed, so never mix chemicals. Keep them in the containers you bought them in with lids on.

When you have hazardous material that you don't need, don't throw it in the trash. These items have chemicals in them that are bad for people, animals, & the environment, so they need safe handling.

The Hazardous Material Collection Facility at the Iowa City Landfill is where you can bring hazardous materials you don't need.

Who can use the facility?

Residents of:

- Johnson County (includes Iowa City, Coralville, & North Liberty)
- Riverside & Kalona

Appliances, such as a refrigerator, microwave, oven, or water heater, are not allowed to be thrown away in the trash because they have hazardous materials in them, such as lead. These can be recycled at the Iowa City Landfill.

Like appliances, recycling electronics, such as computers & cell phones is just as important because they have hazardous materials in them, such as lead. These can be recycled at the East Side Recycling Center or Iowa City Landfill.

Some light bulbs contain hazardous materials. CFL bulbs contain mercury, & LED bulbs contain lead. Recycle bulbs at the East Side Recycling Center, Iowa City Landfill, or community partners. When recycled, the hazardous materials are safely handled, & other parts of the bulb are recycled.

Motor oil that is used in your car or truck is hazardous & not allowed to be thrown out. Recycle oil at East Side Recycling Center or Iowa City Landfill.

Pills & medicine that you no longer need or that have expired should not be thrown in the trash or flushed down the drain. Properly dispose of these at the Hazardous Material Collection Facility or at a pharmacy.

Most batteries should not be thrown in the trash because they can start fires at our landfill. Always check the battery label & your local program to learn where you can take batteries to be recycled.

What do you own or use that has a battery? Sometimes things we use don't look like batteries, but have batteries inside of them to provide power or charge. For example, a TV remote or cell phone have batteries inside them.

Residents of Johnson County, & the cities of Riverside & Kalona can take batteries to the Hazardous Material Collection Facility at the Iowa City Landfill.

Want to learn more?

Hazardous Material & Batteries: www.icgov.org/hhm

Electronics: www.icgov.org/ewaste

Pills & Medicine: www.icgov.org/pills

Light Bulbs: www.icgov.org/cfl