

Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes



Some waste should never be in your curbside trash in the first place. Batteries, electronics, household chemicals, and medicines are common items people may not realize should be taken to a drop-off facility. Other hazardous waste like old mercury thermometers and fluorescent lights can cause confusion, too.

Hennepin County drop-off facilities

Many items are accepted at Hennepin County drop-off facilities, often for free. Materials accepted include:

- 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
- Mattresses and box springs (for a fee)
- Personal care products including hair spray, nail polish remover, and perfume
- Tires (for a fee)

Additional disposal options

The following items have additional disposal options.

Batteries

Batteries should be recycled. Some batteries contain toxic metals, such as cadmium, lead or mercury, which can pose a threat to human health and the environment. Reduce the number of batteries you use by using rechargeable batteries. To store batteries for recycling, place clear tape on both the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of batteries to prevent fires, and place them in a clear plastic bag. Hennepin County accepts household batteries at many locations such as libraries, city halls, and community centers. See hennepin.us/batteryrecycling for locations.

Electronics

If your electronics work, give them away or sell them. 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. To prevent 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.

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

See How to identify and reduce harmful chemicals in your home at hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/reduce-household-hazardous-waste for additional information.