



ask SAM

Dear Conscientious Cleaner,

That is a great question, and a situation we have probably all been in at one time or another. You are correct that these, and many other hazardous products, do not belong in a landfill. Other items considered hazardous waste include oil-based paint and solvents, batteries, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, cleaners, used oil and other auto fluids (don't mix these), and more. For a list of items considered hazardous waste, visit <https://bit.ly/epa-hazardous-waste>.

An easy way to properly dispose of your hazardous waste is to take it to a local hazardous waste collection site or an annual collection day. Some communities provide collection sites where these items can be disposed of safely at any time. Wyoming conservation districts and other organizations also offer annual hazardous waste collection days. These organizations work with a contractor that takes the items and properly disposes of them so as to prevent contamination of water, soil, and other natural resources. To find local disposal options, visit <https://search.earth911.com> or contact your local conservation district at <https://bit.ly/wy-conservation-district>.

Some local landfills are also set up to take certain types of hazardous waste. For more information on landfill options, contact your local municipality, landfill, or the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (see <https://bit.ly/wy-deq-waste>).

As you may already know, some hazardous waste can be safely disposed of in the garbage once certain steps are taken. For example, latex paint can be thrown away after it has dried completely in the can. For more information on disposing of and minimizing household hazardous waste, visit <https://bit.ly/epa-hhw>.

Thank you again for caring enough to ask! Together, we can help keep our water and soil clean by properly disposing of hazardous waste products.

—Sam

Dear Sam,

I am cleaning out my garage this spring and found some old fertilizer and pesticide containers that are partially full. I know that it isn't good to take this stuff to the landfill, but what other options do I have to dispose of it?

*Sincerely,
A Conscientious Cleaner*

Photo credit: Weston County Conservation District.