

# Household Hazardous Waste

## SOLVENT DISPOSAL

Common household products that contain solvents include:

Paint thinners • Nail polish remover • Paint and varnish strippers • Spot removers and degreasers • Polishes • Septic tank cleaners •

Solvents can be toxic and/or flammable. Solvents or solvent fumes can harm skin, eyes and lungs. Halogenated solvents, those with chemical names such as chloro-, fluoro- & bromo-, can cause the most serious health effects. Some solvents may also cause serious environmental hazards.

### What To Do with Leftover Solvents

- Save them for future use, or give them to someone who can use them.
- Reuse paint thinner, mineral spirits and turpentine. Tightly cap the container and let the paint sludge settle - several months may be needed for large amounts. Pour off the clean solvent and reuse. You can also remove paint sludge with coffee filters. Dry collected sludge outdoors and discard with household trash.
- Mix small amounts (less than one cup) of leftover non-halogenated solvents with an absorbent such as clay cat litter (no additives) and dry the mixture outdoors. Wrap dried absorbent in a plastic bag and discard with household trash.
- Save leftover materials for a household hazardous waste collection program.

**Always read the label for safety precautions, even if you are familiar with the product.**

**Remember improper disposal of these products can harm the environment.**



Corrosivity



Ignitability



Reactivity



Toxicity

## **ALWAYS CONSULT THE PRODUCT LABEL**

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Labels provide information about proper use and alert you if the product is potentially hazardous.

**Look for:**

- ✓ Signal words -  
**DANGER, POISON, WARNING or CAUTION.**
  
- ✓ Statements of hazards -  
**“Flammable,” “Vapor harmful,” “Harmful or fatal if swallowed.”**
  
- ✓ Precautionary statements -  
**“Keep out of reach of children,” “Use only in well-ventilated areas,”  
“Do not mix with chlorine-type bleaches or other chemicals.”**

### Store Household Hazardous Waste Properly and Safely Before Disposal

- Keep the product in its original container with the label intact.
- Place leaking containers in larger, leak-proof containers clearly labeled with the contents.
- Store products out of reach of children and pets, away from heat, and away from the house, if possible.
- Store liquid flammables in their original containers or UL-approved metal safety cans, available from hardware stores.
- Reduce disposal problems by using smaller amounts of hazardous substances, or by substituting less hazardous substances where possible.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION on household hazardous waste, contact:**

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

Division of Materials Management  
Bureau of Solid Waste Management  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7260  
Tel: (518) 402-8678

**Note: The information on this card applies only to home-generated wastes. Businesses and organizations must comply with all applicable state and federal hazardous waste regulations.**