

Disposing of Hazardous Household Substances

This guide is intended to help you safely dispose of any hazardous substances in your household, as well as providing you with safer alternatives and hints.










The substances have been grouped into categories of: household, home improvements, garden and garage.

The information in this sheet has been adapted from the 'disposable hazwheel' which was launched at the Hazardous Waste Forum held in Palmerston North. For more information please contact your local city or district council, details of which can be found on our website www.horizons.govt.nz or in your phone book.

Key to symbols

-  Contact your local District or City Council for the nearest drop-off point, recycling facility, or advice on safe disposal.
-  Use chemical or give to friends or neighbours in original container.
-  Contact your Public Health Service: Palmerston North – 06 350 9110 (Midcentral Health), Hamilton – 07 838 2569 (Health Waikato)
-  Rinse empty container 3 times with water. Use rinse water as you would use pesticide. Clean plastic container may be recyclable, if not, put in rubbish.
-  Mix residual contents with sawdust or soil. Leave to solidify then put into rubbish. Empty paint tins can be recycled, with the lid removed.
-  Flush down toilet or take to the Medicine Disposal Depot at the Central Pharmacy, corner Bourke and Featherston Streets, Palmerston North.
-  Place only small amounts into household rubbish.







Household

Substance	Safer Alternative & hints	Safe disposal options
Cleaners Upholstery and Carpet Stain Removers	Clean stains immediately with cold club soda	 
Cleaners Drain, Oven, Toilet, Bath	Keep drains clear with rinses of boiling water. Use baking soda and water to clean surfaces	 
Batteries Cell phone, Toys, Calculator, Camera, Remote Control, Watch	Cadmium – reduced rechargeable batteries Solar – powered batteries	
Medicines Prescription and over-the-counter	Discuss alternatives with your doctor	
Sharps Syringes, Needles, Infectious Materials	No known alternative	
Aerosol Cans Fly Spray, Oven Cleaner	Use pump action or trigger spray container Containers may be recycled	 






Home Improvements

Substance	Safer alternatives & hints	Safe disposal options
Paints and Wood Finishes Oil or Water-Based Paints, Wood Stains	Oil-based paint made with natural ingredients Water-based paints Paint exchange may be available	
Paint and Finish Remover Paint Strippers	Use sandpaper or a scraper to remove paint	
Solvents Pain and Glue Thinners	Use water-based paints and glues where possible	
CFC's and Gas Cylinders CFC's – Refrigerant Gases, Vehicle Air Conditioning Gas Cylinders – LPG Bottles	Contact City or District Council for advise on de-gasing CFC's and disposal of cylinders.	
Lead-Based Paint Flakes and Asbestos Pre-1970 House Paint	Check with Public Health Service for testing and removal advice	

Garden

Rodenticides Mouse and Rat Poison	Seal points of entry. Remove food supplies. Use a good trap	
Chemical Fertilisers Super-phosphate	Use organic compost, blood and bone, organic mulches or fish meal	
Herbicides Weed Killer	Dig out weeds, plant very densely Mulch with bark, peat or leaves. Use weed mat	
Fungicides	Decrease humidity by increasing sunlight and ventilation. Minimise watering. Aerate soil	
Insecticides Ants, Caterpillars, Aphids and Fleas	Aphids: blend green onion tops. Strain, mix with soapy water, spray, wait for ½ hour then rinse Ants: use paprika Fleas: insecticidal soap	
Insecticides Slug and Snail Bait	Place a ring of lime around plants Drown using saucers of beer to attract	

Garage

Substance	Safer alternatives & hints	Safe disposal options
Treated Timber Tanalised Fence Posts and Garden Edgings	DO NOT BURN! Burn only untreated timbers	
Hydraulic and Mineral Oils Brake and Transmission Fluid, Engine Oil	No known alternatives	
Lead-Acid Battery Car, Boat	No known alternatives	
Antifreeze Engine Radiators	No known alternatives	
PCB and Mercury Pre-1970 Fluorescent Tubes and Transformers	Consider alternative lighting options	

For more information on disposing hazardous household substances please contact your local city or district council, details of which can be found on our website www.horizons.govt.nz or in your phone book.