

# Special Waste Considerations and Consumer Tips

## Special Waste Considerations

### Oil

- Waste oil is recyclable if not contaminated with water, antifreeze or other chemicals.
- Store it in heavy plastic jugs with lids.
- Many area auto service centers will recycle used motor oil. Call your local center for information or bring it to the household hazardous material collection site.

### Batteries

- Household batteries contain hazardous materials like mercury, zinc, cadmium and can be considered "corrosive."
- Alkaline batteries can be recharged! It used to be that only nickel-cadmium batteries were rechargeable... now you can purchase an alkaline battery recharger and extend the life of your batteries 3-5 fold. (Saves \$\$)
- Bring totally "spent" batteries to the collection site.
- Purchase household batteries that indicate they are environmentally friendly. These can be disposed of in the trash.
- Better yet, avoid buying products that require batteries.
- Small lead-acid batteries along with automobile and truck batteries are recyclable and can be taken to your local battery center.

### Empty Pesticide Containers

- Triple rinse empty containers and use rinse water as product per recommendation. Then, put empty, rinsed container in trash.

### Consumer Tips

#### Prepurchase Safety Checklist

- Do I really need this product?
- Have I checked for signal words?
- Is there a safer alternative?
- Does this product require safety equipment?
- Am I buying more than I need?

- Can I safely dispose of the excess or does it require a household hazardous waste collection?
- Can I safely store this product in my home?

### **Before You Buy a Product...**

- Read the label. Make sure it is the product you want to buy and that you are not uncomfortable with its ingredients.
- Buy the least hazardous product. Let the signal words serve as a guide. On labels of consumer products, "**danger**" or "**poison**" means highly toxic or extremely flammable, "**warning**" and "**caution**" means moderately or slightly toxic.
- Be aware that the word "nontoxic" has no federal regulatory definition. It is only an advertising word, like "natural".
- Avoid aerosol products. Aerosol disperses the substance in tiny droplets that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and absorbed into the bloodstream. In addition, aerosol cans may become explosive bombs when heated.

[Back to Top](#)