

Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Waste

Ah, springtime is in the air. Awakening from our winter rest, what do homeowners start thinking about? Cleaning. And what happens when we clean under the sink, in the basement, and in the garage? Like many of us, you may find items that make you wonder if it is safe to throw it in the trash.

How can you tell if something is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Products around the home that contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive are hazardous household products. These products are safe when used and stored following label direction. However, when the products become unusable and are no longer wanted, they become household hazardous waste. Questionable or obviously hazardous materials should not be dumped into sewer drains, poured into sinks, or even thrown into the trash. There is a better way to tidy up your home – and the environment.

In April 2013, St. Louis County opened its first permanent household hazardous waste collection facility. The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District is proud to have the new collection site on the grounds of the Lemay Wastewater Treatment Facility at 291 E. Hoffmeister Avenue. The new facility is a regional collection point, available to residents of St. Louis County, Jefferson County and the City of St. Louis.

The program is for residential households only. Commercial entities and businesses are not permitted to dispose of hazardous wastes at these facilities.

For a listing of what you can drop off: <http://www.hhwstl.com/faq>

Rather than waiting in line, you may schedule a drop-off here:
<http://www.hhwstl.com/reservations>

And be sure and check the website for turn-by-turn directions. Most mapping applications won't take you exactly where you want to go, yet this link does:
<http://www.hhwstl.com/facility-location>.

For electronics recycling events (e.g., old computers, monitors, TVs, consumer electronics, etc), St. Louis county municipalities regularly hold electronics recycling events (usually held on a Saturday morning, every month) that are open to the public. There may be a nominal charge for certain items but most things can generally be recycled free of charge. For more information, see this website: <https://mrcrecycling.net/electronics-recycling-events>

Happy Spring Cleaning, and thanks for doing your part to safely dispose of waste that is or may be hazardous to humans or the environment.

