

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Guidelines

It's unfortunate that many household products we use for cleaning and maintaining our home contain toxic and flammable chemicals. You definitely do not want to pack these products with you when moving to your next duty station. Here are guidelines for the proper disposal of the common household hazardous materials that you maybe leaving behind.

Reuse the products. Getting these products into our waste stream should be the last resort. Before thinking about wasting a product, be a good neighbor and offer it to your neighbor, friend, church or community organization. You'll save them money. Offer only products in usable condition and in original containers with instructions to ensure that the next person uses the product safely.

The Army Family Housing **Kamaaina Fix-It Store** located on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter will accept unused products such as paint and bug spray that they have distributed to customers. Products should be at least 50% full. The store manager has the final decision of whether a turn-in product is acceptable or not. Remember, he has to provide the same quality of product he offered to you to the next customer.

Propane Gas Cylinders. The recent switchover to using refillable propane gas cylinders with overfill prevention devices (OPD) has created a pool of 5-gallon (barbeque grill) unusable tanks with the old valve system. The AAFES Gas Station Auto Care Center will accept turn tanks for a fee of \$5.00. The Care Center will have to de-valve and purge the tanks before sending the tanks to the scrap metal recycler. There are a couple of off-post retailers that are currently accepting tank turn-ins at no cost: Air Liquide in Kalihi (ph. 845-9021) and Aloha LP Gas in Waianae (ph. 668-8700).

Un-refillable propane and helium gas cylinders that are empty and under 5 gallons in size can be disposed of in the trash can.

Paints. Paints can be disposed of IN THE TRASH CAN. To avoid paint spillage, latex (water-based) paints should be dried solid by removing the lid and air-drying the paint in the can. Intermittent stirring will shorten the drying time. Oil-based paints should be tightly covered, and placed in a secured plastic bag with sorbent material such as shredded newspaper, old rags, or sawdust to prevent a messy, unwanted spill if the lid comes off or the can is punctured during rubbish hauling.

Aerosols. Spray paints and insecticides can be disposed of IN THE TRASH CAN. Place the spray can in a secured plastic bag with sorbent material such as shredded newspaper, old rags, or sawdust to minimize spillage.

Car Batteries. The AAFES Gas Station Auto Care Center will accept individual turn-ins of lead acid batteries for a fee of \$1.50. Off-post retailers Sears Auto Center and Napa Auto Parts will accept used car batteries free of charge.

Car Tires. The DCA AutoCraft Shop and the Auto Salvage Yard will accept used tires at a charge of \$2.50 per tire.

Motor oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, gear oil, antifreeze. Pour liquid into a plastic bag with absorbent material, such as shredded newspaper, old rags, or sawdust. Once the liquid is absorbed, seal the bag, and discard IN THE TRASH CAN. Oil change boxes available at the PX and other retail stores provide the same results. The DCA AutoCraft Shop will accept waste automotive fluids at a charge of \$0.25 per quart provided that the fluids are not contaminated. Contaminated waste oil that cannot be recycled locally is shipped to the mainland for hazardous waste disposal at a very high cost to the AutoCraft shop.

Other Types of Hazardous Household Products. The general rule of thumb is hazardous household products are disposable at your home provided that you have only a reasonable amount of product to waste. A quart or pound of material is reasonable. Always read the product labels carefully for safe handling and disposal instructions. Follow the disposal guidelines as improper disposal could injure refuse workers, damage processing equipment, or harm the environment.

Liquid type of products such as aluminum cleaners, ammonia cleaners, bathroom cleaners, disinfectants, drain cleaners, hair permanent lotions, hair relaxers, liquid medicines, toilet bowl cleaners, tub and tile cleaners, window cleaners are FLUSHED DOWN THE DRAIN with plenty of water. Rinse out the container during the flushing process. Throw the empty container away in the trash container.

Solid-type of products such as auto repair products, household batteries, fiberglass, medicine pills, metal polish with solvent, oven cleaner, paint-dried/hardened, shoe polish; syringes can be disposed IN THE TRASH CAN. Securely close the container lid to prevent spillage, then discard. Be sure children cannot access the discarded material.

Proper disposal of household hazardous products requires effort, time and money. When you start filling your bathroom and garage shelves with cleaning products at your next home, consider nonhazardous alternatives. And, if you really need a hazardous product, be conservative and buy only what you need to get the job done. **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.**