



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
COLORADO'S FIRST



City of Centennial

## WMCurbside “At-Your-Door” Special Collection Program 1-800-449-7587



The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) has a contract with Waste Management (WM) for their Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program. WM offers a standard door-to-door HHW collection program for the proper disposal and recycling of leftover household hazardous materials for residents of unincorporated Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial. With a professional collection like “At-Your-Door”, SEMSWA can work towards maximizing the recycling of HHW. For example, all small batteries collected, including rechargeable, one-time-use, hearing aid and watch batteries, are actually recycled into new materials, with some of the metals used to make new batteries. Small battery collection by WM is a true recycling program, where none of the batteries end up in a landfill.

The “At-Your-Door” Program works as follows: Residents call a toll-free hotline (800-449-7587) operated by WM to schedule a collection. The operator will qualify the caller (this program is open to unincorporated Arapahoe County and City of Centennial residents only), determine the types and quantities of acceptable material the resident has for collection, and schedule a collection date and time. WM is capable of collecting nearly all types of HHW, including used motor oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, paint, household and auto batteries, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, acids, photo chemicals and household chemicals, and can discuss proper disposal of non-acceptable items during the hotline call. Prior to collection day, WM sends participants a HHW kit with instructions and a collection bag. On collection day, residents are instructed to place the kit with HHW in a safe location outside their home for pick up. The resident does not need to be home for the collection activity. The co-payment for this program is \$20.00. SEMSWA picks up the remainder of the costs, about \$97 per household collection.

The kit contains information on what materials are accepted for collection and those that are not. Unknown materials are identified by a special team and collected at a later date, often without additional charge. Much of the waste collected is recycled in some manner, and the recycling hierarchy is followed to the greatest extent possible. What is not recycled is usually destructively incinerated.

So when you do your annual cleaning, be sure and segregate your HHW and give WM a call to come pick it up. Other jurisdictions have voluntary programs in which people will deliver the HHW to a collection point, typically called a “Round Up Day”. It has been the experience of both the Arapahoe County’s Sheriff’s Office and SEMSWA that participation is greater when a pick-up program is offered rather than a collection site, the transport of the wastes is safer, and the collection is more efficient and cost-effective. We urge you to utilize this service when you have identified HHW items to be disposed.



Additional general resources on household hazardous wastes and recycling opportunities include [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) and [www.obviously.com/recycle/](http://www.obviously.com/recycle/). **Earth 911** lists by state and county HHW facilities, collection details and collection event information. **Obviously.com** provides a recycling guide that provides a starting point for consumers in the USA and Canada searching the net for recycling information. The information is for regular folks with regular household quantities of materials to recycle. The goal is to help make recycling so easy and automatic that it blends into the flow of everyday life.

[www.semswa.org](http://www.semswa.org)

[www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)

## ***Keep Your Environment Beautiful and Safe for Future Generations***

### **TIPS ON HOW TO MANAGE YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Many common household cleaning products, paints, pesticides, even motor oil, can pose a threat to your family—and the environment. The EPA estimates that we generate 1.6 million TONS of household hazardous waste each year! Even small amounts of these wastes, when disposed of improperly, can pollute ground or surface water—and can put humans and animals at risk. Each year, do-it-yourselfers who change their own car oil improperly dispose of almost 9 times more used motor oil than was spilled in the EXXON Valdez accident! In fact, just one gallon of motor oil dumped down a storm sewer can pollute up to a million gallons of drinking water!

Products that are poured down the drain, onto the ground, or washed into gutters or storm drains can damage septic and sewer systems and pollute our lakes and streams. The good news is there IS something you can do to help protect yourself and your family—and help preserve the beauty of our environment.

- The best place to start is by taking stock of what's already in your home. You can easily identify hazardous household products just by reading labels. Hazardous symbols and warnings will alert you to potentially dangerous products. Also, read the directions for proper use and storage.
- And don't ever mix products! Many common household products are extremely dangerous when they come in contact with each other. Vinegar and chlorine bleach can cause toxic fumes when mixed. And pool chlorine and brake fluid can explode!
- If you do have any hazardous materials in your home, first make sure they are stored properly. Always store products in their original containers and protect the label. You don't want to run the risk of mistaking one product for another because you've stored it in an empty milk jug or glass jar. And keep hazardous materials out of reach of children and pets. Once you make sure these products are stored safely, it's time to start thinking about reducing the amounts of these products in your home. The easiest way is to use up what you already have.
- If you can't use it yourself, share it with a neighbor or friend. You can also look for schools, churches and non-profit organizations that can use your leftover cleaning products and paints.
- When shopping, read the labels and look for less toxic alternatives, like citrus-based cleaners. They work well. Most are comparable in cost to conventional products, and often come in concentrated form, so they last longer. If you really want to save money, there are great cleaners you can make at home that work just as well as many brand name products. Everyday ingredients like vinegar, baking soda and lemon juice are inexpensive and can be used for all sorts of chores around the house, like... Clearing clogged drains... Cleaning windows... Polishing furniture... Cleaning your oven... Even polishing metal. Regular biodegradable dishwashing soap makes a great car wash, and can be used as an insecticide for house plants.

*Keeping it beautiful and safe for future generations starts with you—and starts in your home.*