

FAQs Haz Ben (Household Hazardous Waste)

Q: What is hazardous waste?

A: The Environmental Protection Agency describes four different types of hazardous waste. These include items that are flammable, corrosive, explosive and poisonous.

Q: What are some examples of household hazardous waste (HHW)?

A: These include cleaners, stains, varnishes, batteries, automotive fluids (antifreeze and motor oil), pesticides, herbicides and paints. Further examples include drain cleaners, oil paint, fuel, fluorescent lamps, smoke detectors, medical waste and consumer electronics (televisions, computers, cell phones).

Q: What are the most common types of household hazardous waste found in local recycling bins?

A: Pesticides, cleaning solvents, car oil and paint.

Q: What kinds of problems do these items create?

A: If these items are placed in the blue recycling bin or the green trash bin, under certain circumstances, they could create a fire hazard, explosion resulting in safety concerns. Household hazardous waste placed in the blue bin would also contaminate good recyclables. In addition, any HHW thrown in the green bin could cause problems at the landfill by reacting with other chemicals and could eventually contaminate our groundwater.

Q: Is there one type of household hazardous waste that is the most dangerous?

A: All are equally dangerous because of their corrosiveness and potential harm they pose to the environment if not handled properly.

