

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIVE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds of "household hazardous waste." These common products can include cleaners, paints, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, pesticides and other products containing hazardous components.

Individuals living throughout southwestern Pennsylvania will have an opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous products commonly found in their homes at collections scheduled throughout the spring and summer months.

The Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force will sponsor five collections:

Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Allegheny County, North Park Swimming Pool Parking Lot

Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Armstrong County (location to be announced)

Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lawrence County (location to be announced)

Saturday, August 28, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Butler County (location to be announced)

Saturday, September 18, 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Westmoreland County, Westmoreland Fairgrounds

Individuals dropping off waste materials in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler and Lawrence counties will pay a fee of \$2 per gallon. Payment will be cash only (no checks or credit cards accepted). Individuals participating in the Westmoreland County event are subject to a different fee structure and should call 724-836-4129 for more information.

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“Homeowners typically find hazardous products in five areas of their homes: the kitchen, bathroom, garage, workshop and garden,” according to Dave Mazza of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, which administers the campaign. “While hazardous products are safe to use if you take the proper precautions, problems generally arise when you use or dispose of them improperly. The Task Force’s mission is to provide the public with an opportunity to dispose of such materials in an environmentally friendly manner.”

The five collections will accept the following materials: aerosol cans; automotive fluids (motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, kerosene, break fluid); batteries (household, automotive); chemistry sets; cleaners (ammonia, drain openers, acid cleaners, oven cleaners); mercury thermometers; paint products (latex, oil based, alkyd based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, water sealers, paint thinners, furniture strippers); pesticides/garden (rodent killers, insecticides, weed killers, mothballs, fertilizer); photo chemicals; and pool chemicals.

The collections will not accept the following materials: ammunition and explosives; commercial waste; compressed gas cylinders; medical waste (including needles); PCBs or dioxins; radioactive waste; smoke detectors; and tires.

“Last year, we held the first collections in recent history and the response clearly demonstrated the need for an ongoing program,” according to Mazza. “Toxic products often end up polluting the land and waterways because there are few options to properly dispose of them. The Task Force is able to provide a safe option, and it successfully facilitated the collection of 180,000 pounds of waste in Allegheny County, 40,000 pounds in Beaver County and 39,000 pounds in Westmoreland County last year.”

Following each household hazardous waste collection, a certified contractor processes the hazardous waste. Materials may be recycled, incinerated or safely buried in special landfills.

The Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, formed in 2002, secures funding, organizes events and creates a partnership of individuals representing governmental, private and public organizations. The Task Force includes representatives from ALCOSAN, Allegheny County Health Department, Armstrong County, Bayer Corporation, Beaver County, Butler County, Carnegie Mellon University, City of Pittsburgh, Environmental Resources Management, Inc., Green Tree Borough, Lawrence County, McKeesport Municipal Authority, North Hills COG, PA CleanWays – Allegheny County, PA CleanWays – Westmoreland County, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Resources Council and PPG Industries, Inc.

Numerous organizations support the household hazardous waste collection campaign by providing financial support of the events. Sponsors of the 2004 collections are ALCOSAN, Allegheny County Health Department, Bayer Polymers, Citizens Bank, ERM Foundation, Heinz Endowments, North Hills COG Member Municipalities, NOVA Chemicals, Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research (SEER) Carnegie Mellon University, and Sunoco Chemicals.

For more information concerning the upcoming collections visit www.swpahhw.org or call the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 412-488-7452.

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