



ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

Resource Recovery Guide



A Citizen's Guide for Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

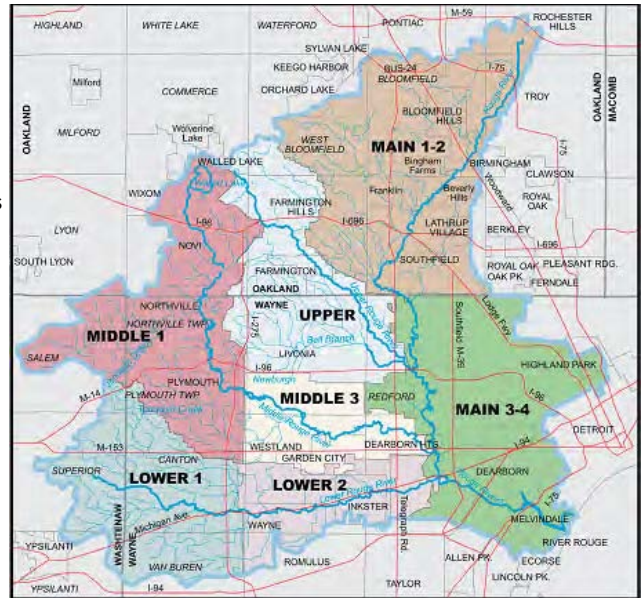
The Alliance of Rouge Communities is made up of more than forty communities in southeast Michigan. The rain that falls in these communities travels from our yards and roads to ditches, streams and creeks on the way to the Rouge River. Because the rain that falls in these areas makes its way to the Rouge River, these communities make up the Rouge River Watershed. Our homes, yards, and businesses are all part of the watershed, that's why the activities we conduct around our homes affect our waterways

We all want to do our part to help the Rouge River Watershed, but sometimes it can be difficult to know what to do. Recycling is a great place to start. Only about 20% of trash in Michigan is recycled. Using recycled products instead of virgin materials saves water, saves energy and reduces pollution. Most communities in the ARC have curbside recycling programs or drop off sites. See page 9 for more information about recycling.

Properly disposing of your household hazardous wastes (HHW) is an important step every homeowner can take. HHW can be harmful to the environment when improperly disposed of in the trash or in a drain. See page 3 for more information about HHW.

This guide is intended to help residents with recycling and disposal of household hazardous wastes. It was modeled after the *Wayne County Department of Environment Resource Recovery Guide*. Additional information was provided by Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Washtenaw County, Wayne County, Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recover Authority (SOCRRA), Resource Recovery Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC), Eco-Cycle (www.ecocycle.org) and Howard Knorr.

This guide is for informational purposes only. The guide should not be regarded as complete with respect to the products, services, or institutions it lists. It is not meant to be exclusive or exclusionary in any way nor does it vouch for the capabilities, trustworthiness, or performance of any individual, business, or institution listed in these pages. Please contact your local municipality with questions about recycling and household hazardous waste services available.



Important Phone Numbers:

Oakland County Waste Resource Management
2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Bldg. 41 W
Waterford, MI 48328-2762
248-858-1352

Website: www.oakgov.com/waste

Report Water Pollution-Call the 24 Hour Environmental Hotline: 248-858-0931

Washtenaw County Planning and Environment Department
Western County Service Center
705 N. Zeeb Road
Scio Township, Michigan 48103-1560
734-222-3800

24 Hour Environmental Complaint Hotline: 734-222-3880
Website: www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environment

Wayne County Land Resource Management Division
3600 Commerce Court, Bldg. E
Wayne, MI 48184-2803
734-326-3936

24 Hour Environmental Hotline 888-223-2363
Website: www.waynecounty.com/doe/

Household Hazardous Waste



Hazardous chemicals. . . in the home

Hazardous chemicals. Their mere mention alarms us. Yet we keep them under our sinks, in our medicine cabinets and in our garages. In fact, we use them almost every day. Almost all products can be misused in ways that make them dangerous. Some products pose risks to human health and the environment even when used as intended because they contain hazardous chemicals. Known hazardous products are cleaners, pesticides, home improvement products, and even some personal care items. These products may contain the same chemicals that are found in strictly regulated industrial products and wastes.

What are the risks?

Unintentionally, but regularly, we are exposed to hazardous products. We inhale them, we touch them, and sometimes we accidentally ingest them. Detergents can cause skin rashes, fumes from cleaners can cause dizziness and nausea, caustic products can cause burns, and extensive exposure to some toxic products can even be fatal. Long-term health impacts from regular exposure to hazardous products are largely unknown. Children, the elderly, pregnant women, and the sick are often most at risk.

Hazardous products also pose risks to the environment. For example, pesticides can harm beneficial garden creatures and charcoal lighter fluid releases air pollutants. Most hazardous products should not be discarded in the trash or down the drain. Improper disposal causes health risks to humans and contaminates the groundwater, rivers, and lakes, harming plant and animal life. If you purchase a hazardous product, use it as directed on the label, follow disposal instructions, or dispose of it through your local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

The best way to reduce the risks is to avoid using hazardous products in the first place. For many jobs around the home there are alternatives that are significantly less harmful.

How can I tell if a product is hazardous?

Look for the words Danger, Warning, or Caution on the product label. "Danger" warnings are found on extremely hazardous products. "Warning" and "Caution" indicate less of a hazard; however, these products should be handled carefully and disposed with caution. A hazardous product can be toxic, flammable, corrosive reactive or any combination of these.

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is the unwanted or unusable portion of products that contain substances that can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Household hazardous waste tips:

- Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable.
- Store hazardous materials in a cool, dry place inaccessible to children or pets.
- Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only materials you need and will use. If a product cannot be used for its original purpose, then the material should be disposed of properly.
- Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and follow all safe handling requirements.
- Let used solvents and paint thinners set for a while in a closed jar. The dirt and paints will settle to the bottom. The top portion can be reused. The amount of actual waste for disposal will be much less.
- Offer surplus portions of products that are usable and safely packaged to others, such as pesticides to nurseries, and paint to theater groups.
- Never pour motor oil, paints, pharmaceuticals, or chemicals down storm drains or sinks. These household hazardous wastes should be recycled or taken to a HHW collection event in your community or to a HHW drop-off site.

Non-Toxic alternatives:

The best way to reduce the risks is to avoid using hazardous products in the first place. For many jobs around the house there are alternatives that are significantly less harmful.

- Baking soda – Cleans, deodorizes, softens water, and is a good scouring powder.
- Borax – Naturally occurring mineral cleaning agent that does not contain phosphates or chlorine.
- Lemon Juice – Cuts stains and has a refreshing smell.
- Liquid soap – Cleans almost any surface.
- Vinegar – Degreaser and deodorizer
- Washing soda (sodium carbonate, not baking soda) – Germ remover and laundry soap booster

Household Hazardous Waste

Non-Toxic alternatives—continued:

These simple alternatives can save you money and reduce waste by using items you already have on hand.

- All-purpose cleaner: Mix a cup of vinegar in a pail of water.
- Disinfect: Use 1/2 cup of borax or washing soda (sodium carbonate, not baking soda) dissolved in a gallon of hot water.
- Wash windows: Mix one part vinegar to four parts water.
- Deodorize carpets: Sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum after 30 minutes.
- Polish furniture: Use equal parts mineral oil and lemon oil.
- Clean floors: Use 1/4 cup of white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing soda (sodium carbonate not baking soda) in one gallon of warm water.
- Clear clogged drains: Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Let rest for 15 minutes and rinse with hot water. Repeat process every month to keep drains clean.

Many of the communities in the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) are members of organizations that provide recycling and household hazardous waste services.

Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA) services the ARC communities of Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Lathrup Village, and Troy. For more information visit their website: www.socrra.org or call 248-288-5150.

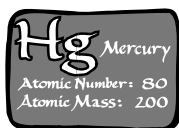
Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC) services the ARC communities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, Walled Lake, and Wixom. For more information visit their website: www.rrrasoc.org or call 248-208-2270.

Wayne County’s Department of Environment hosts up to four Household Hazardous Waste Collections per year for County residents. The collections are designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal and electronics for recycling from residents. For information on dates and locations, contact Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Information line at 734-326-3936 or check www.waynecounty.com/doe/land.

Contact your municipality to find out if they have a household hazardous waste collection scheduled. If you need immediate options, contact the appropriate facility listed below. Always call first!

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Pacific Oil Resources Inc. | 44141 Yost Rd., Belleville | 734-397-1120 | Motor oil in 5 gallon containers or smaller at no charge. |
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd, Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave, Wayne | 248-446-3001 or 800-852-8127 734-467-9110 | Batteries (household and automotive) and Phones (cell and mobile). www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Chemical Analytics | 29959 Beverly, Romulus | 734-326-9400 | Accepts fuel oil only and mercury at no charge to residents. |
| EQ Detroit Inc. | 1923 Frederick St, Detroit | 313-923-0080; Hotline/ Questions: 313-923-2240 | Fuel oil, used motor oil, paint, turpentine, most solvents, hydraulic fluids, pesticides, herbicides, asbestos, batteries, aerosol cans, flammables, combustibles, anti-freeze, car wax, and light bulbs. Open to public. Free to Detroit residents. |
| IRWS | 28265 Beck Rd, Suite C6, Wixom | 800-440-1641 | |
| SQS Environmental Group | 13040 Merriman, Livonia | 734-459-3800 | Open to public. Fee may apply. Call to make arrangements. www.sqsenvironmental.com |

Mercury In Your Home



Why is mercury (Hg) harmful?

Mercury is a toxic substance that can be found in many household items including thermometers and old thermostats. You should avoid buying items that contain mercury and use substitutes whenever possible. Mercury is a dangerous and potent bio-accumulative neurotoxin that can affect the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Short-term high-level mercury vapor exposure can cause nausea, shortness of breath, pneumonitis, and bronchitis.

Atmospheric mercury mixes with rain and snow and falls into lakes and waterways. When mercury is deposited in lakes or waterways, bacteria convert it into methyl mercury. Methyl mercury contaminates the food chain and builds up in the tissue of fish and of wildlife and humans who eat fish.

What to do after a mercury containing spill



- For immediate and specific information, call the Michigan Department of Community Health Toxics Hotline at 1-800-MI-TOXIC. A step by step brochure is available at www.michigan.gov/mercury. In case of emergency, call the poison control center 24 hours a day at 1-800-POISON1.
- Close all doors that lead to uncontaminated areas where the mercury has not been spilled.
- Remove people from the room. Take off any clothing and shoes that might have mercury on them and seal them in plastic bags. Leave the bags in the room where the mercury spilled.
- Remove all pets from the area. If the pets have walked through the mercury, wipe their feet with a rag moistened with foam shaving cream to stop the spread of mercury to other areas. Put the rags into a bag and seal it, leaving it in the room where the mercury spilled.
- Isolate the room from the heating and air conditioning system by closing all air vents and registers.
- Remove your jewelry to keep it from being contaminated.
- Open an outside window or door in the room. If possible, place a fan so that it can blow air from the room to the outside.
- Decide who can do the cleanup. If the spill is small, not spread over a large area, recent, on a hard surface, and easily bagged you may be able to do the cleanup yourself. Pregnant women should never be involved in mercury cleanups. For detailed instructions, see the step by step brochure available at www.michigan.gov/mercury. You may want to call the Michigan Department of Community Health at 800-MI-TOXIC, your local health department, or the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 for advice.

What to do if you have a mercury thermometer.

- Remove mercury thermometers from your home before they break. Thermometers or any other mercury containing device should be disposed of properly. Contact your city or township for dates of local household hazardous waste (HHW) collections.
- If your community does not have an annual HHW collection, refer to the bottom of this page.
- Purchase a mercury-free thermometer. Digital thermometers are as accurate as mercury thermometers for most applications. Since they are mercury-free, no mercury will be released if they break in the home or when they are thrown away. Digital thermometers generally last longer so they cost less in the long run.

When possible, buy products that don't contain mercury. A list of mercury alternative and other information is included below. For additional alternatives look on the web at www.michigan.gov/deq.

| Discards Containing Mercury | Alternative Products |
|---|---|
| Thermometers | Digital Thermometers |
| Thermostats (Non-electric models) | Electric Models |
| Batteries (Old alkaline type prior to 1996) | Rechargeable alkaline or Mercury-free batteries |
| Button Batteries | Mercury-free button batteries |
| Silver Amalgam Waste | Ask your Dentist |

Mercury In Your Home

| Discards Containing Mercury | Alternative Products |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Old Latex Paints (Before 1990) | New Latex Paint |
| Some shoes that light up | Mercury-free shoes |
| Switches (from some lights and appliances) | Mechanical or Electrical Switches |
| Contact Lens Solution Containing Thimerosal | Mercury-free solution |
| Lights (Fluorescent, High Intensity Discharge, and Mercury Vapor Lamps) | Energy Efficient Fluorescent Lights |

The following locations will accept mercury-containing items for recycling. Always call first.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd, Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave, Wayne | 248-446-3001 or 800-852-8127 | www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Chemical Analytics | 29959 Beverly Rd, Romulus | 734-326-9400 | |
| EQ Detroit Inc. | 1923 Frederick St, Detroit | 313-923-0080; Hotline/Questions 313-923-2240 | Open to public. Free to Detroit Residents. Call to make arrangements. |
| SQS Environmental Group | 13040 Merriman, Livonia | 734-459-3800 | Hours: M-F, 8:30-12:30. Open to public. Fee may apply. Call to make arrangements. www.sqsenvironmental.com |

Reducing Junk Mail



How did they get my address?

If you'd like to stop receiving unsolicited mailings, here are several approaches for reducing junk mail. Be patient, as it may take three to six months before you notice a reduction.

1. **Contact credit bureaus.** To stop receiving "pre-approved" credit card offers, call the credit card bureau at 888-5-OPTOUT (888-567-8688). This is a free service offered by major credit bureaus.
2. **Call mail-order catalog companies.** Most catalogs provide an 800 telephone number for placing an order; call this number and ask to be taken off their mailing list.
3. **Reduce advertising supplements.** Grocery store advertisements, typically delivered midweek, are often accompanied by a postcard; some postcards show pictures of missing children. Contact the company on the return address of the postcard that accompanies these advertising supplements. One company mailing these items is: Valassis Communications at 888-241-6760.
4. **Get off national mailing lists.** Email or write to the address below and ask to be placed on a "suppress" file. Include your name and address in all the different ways it appears on your junk mail. The Mail Preference Service places your name in a suppress file for five years. The Direct Marketing Association sends this list to its business subscribers four times a year. Contact Direct Mailing Association, Mail Preference Service, PO Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512, www.dmachoice.org or www.privacyrights.org.
5. **Request charities not distribute your information.** When you make a donation to a charity or nonprofit group, enclose a note requesting that the organization not rent, sell, or exchange your name with anyone else.
6. **Return junk mail.** Envelopes marked "address correction requested" or "return postage guaranteed" can be returned unopened to the sender by crossing out your address and writing "refuse, return to sender" on the envelope. Then place this article of mail back in your mailbox. DO NOT write this on mail without that special notation; the post office will NOT return it to the sender unless it is so marked. Also check out these other websites: www.obviously.com/junkmail/, www.catalogchoice.org/ and www.stopjunk.com/.
7. **Notify mailing brokers.** Some companies specialize in collecting and selling mailing lists. Call some of these companies and ask to be placed in their "suppress" files: *R.L. Polk & Company/Equifax - Phone: 800-873-7655, Info USA/Database America, Consumer Compilation Division - Phone: 888-859-8052.*
8. **Remove your name from sweepstakes offers.** To have your name removed from the major nationwide sweepstakes mailers, contact: *Publishers Clearinghouse - 800-645-9242, Reader's Digest - 800-234-9000, American Family Publishers - 800-237-2400.*
9. **Businesses.** The two largest business-to-business direct marketers are: *Dun and Bradstreet, One Diamond Hill Road, New Providence NJ 07974, Phone: 800-333-0505 and Info USA Inc., Attention-Business Update Department, PO Box 27347, Omaha, NE 68127, Phone: 800-321-0869.*

Business Recycling



Reducing waste makes good business sense

Recycling makes good business sense. Garbage disposal is expensive and recycled items are marketable. Your business has the potential to generate income by following the guidelines in this handbook; while at the same time reducing the monthly cost of having your trash hauled away and disposed.

Every time a company manufactures a product, they also make pollution. When you buy durable and reusable items, there's less to throw away and less to replace.

When you reduce waste...

- Net operating costs can be reduced.
- Your company can save money on the purchase of recycled content or remanufactured goods.
- Customers, employees, and the community take special notice and support environmentally friendly businesses.
- Best of all, it doesn't cost much to begin a waste reduction and recycling program!

Master business recycler manual...

Now available from the Michigan Recycling Coalition-gives experienced recyclers new ideas for their programs and gives beginners step-by-step instructions to evaluate their waste stream, reduce their waste, design a recycling program, and implement it effectively. Everything you need to know to design, implement, promote, and expand an effective waste reduction and recycling program for your business.

To obtain a copy of the Manual, contact:

Michigan Recycling Coalition
3225 W. St. Joseph
Lansing, MI 48917
517-327-9207
www.michiganrecycles.org
Email: info@michiganrecycles.org

Community Recycling Programs and Services



Like many Americans, you collect and sort items that can be recycled. That's good, because you help your community reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill. But putting items out for collection or dropping them off at a local center is only the first of three steps in the recycling process. It may surprise you to learn that what you buy is just as important as saving the things your recycling center takes.

To Market, To Market...

Today, approximately 21% of our trash is recovered annually for recycling. Where do these millions of pounds of recyclables go after collection? Manufacturers use them to make new products-recycling's second step. The third and final step returns the new products to the marketplace. This step is one that you need to support if recycling is to remain part of the solution to the country's garbage issue.

Why Should I Buy Recycled?

You "close the loop" when you buy items or packaging made from recycled materials. They have now come full circle: from bag or bin to a manufacturer, to the store shelf, and back to your home. And after using the item, you can start the loop again by saving it for the local recycling program. When you buy recycled, markets are created and a use is assured for recyclables being collected in your community and in thousands of others. Manufacturers will respond by continuing to use recyclables in their products. Without informed consumers and a ready market for products made of recycled materials, local recycling programs will become more costly and fewer recyclables may be collected and processed. More reusable material will end up in landfills, and communities will need to deal with an increased amount of garbage.

How Do I Find Them?

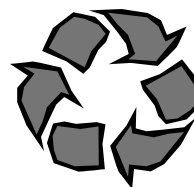
Products and packaging made from recycled material are everywhere-in stores that sell groceries, office supplies, auto parts, and everything in between. Recyclables are transformed into an amazing variety of new products. Plastic milk jugs return to yards and parks as plastic lumber and picnic tables. Steel food cans return to the hardware store as nails and screws. Newspapers become egg cartons. There's no limit to the things that can be made from recyclables.

Many products are identified recycled or partially recycled on the label or on the product itself. Others may contain recycled material but may not be identified. For instance, there's a good chance that the glass containers, aluminum and steel cans, paper-board boxes, and plastic detergent bottles you buy are made of some recycled material.

Some products and packaging also have labels describing the amount of "pre-consumer" and "post-consumer" waste that was used. "Pre-consumer" waste is also known as "manufacturing waste" and includes any scraps, trimmings, over-runs, etc., from the manufacturing process. "Post-consumer" waste is a product or other material that has served its intended use and has been discarded and then collected for recycling.

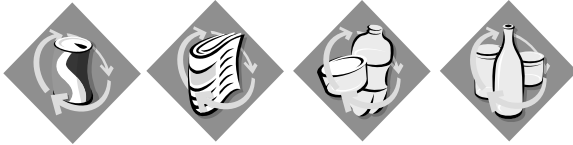
Did You Know...?

- For every ton of paper you recycle, you save 17 trees, 464 gallons of oil, 42 gallons of gasoline, 4,210 KWH of electricity, and 7,000 gallons of water.
- Using recycled paper instead of virgin materials reduces air pollution by 74% and water pollution by 35%.....and it closes the loop!
- Recycling glass reduces water use by 50%.
- Using recycled aluminum instead of virgin ore saves 4 tons of bauxite and 1,500 pounds of petroleum coke and pitch for every ton of reused aluminum; Recycling 40 aluminum cans saves the energy equivalent to 1 gallon of gasoline. In 2003, Americans recycled enough aluminum cans to save more than 15 million barrels of oil. Keep America Beautiful notes: it takes the same amount of energy to make one aluminum beverage can from scratch that it does to produce 20 cans from recycled material.
- Using recycled iron and steel instead of virgin ore to make new steel results in 40% reduction in water use and 90% savings in virgin materials used.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.
- Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.



Community Recycling Programs and Services

When it comes to recycling



Aim High!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Most ARC communities offer a curbside recycling program. Those that don't, may have recycling drop-off centers. Contact your local Department of Public Services office to find out about your community's recycling program or to the location and hours of operation for the community's drop-off center. The following businesses also offer recycling services to residents and businesses. Call first to find out the drop-off hours and other terms.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Canton Waste Recycling | 42020 Van Born Rd., Canton | 734-397-5801 | Plastic, paper, cardboard, tin, glass, oil, paint-limit 5 one-gallon containers, antifreeze & batteries. Hours: Scheduled Fridays 10-4, & all Saturdays 8-11. Please note: Canton residents only. www.cantonwasterecycling.com |
| NPR Recycling | 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus | 734-721-0197 | Has drive-thru drop-off for paper recycling. |
| Onyx Recycling | 10833 Five Mile Rd., Northville | 248-349-4444 | Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, and plastic. |
| Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southeast Oakland County (RRRASOC) | 20000 W. 8 Mile Rd., Southfield | 248-208-2270 | Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, plastic, and polystyrene for RRRASOC member communities. www.rrrasoc.org |
| Recycle Here | 1331 Holden Ave., Detroit | | Drop off for variety of items, Wednesdays 10-2, Saturdays 9-3 www.recyclehere.net |
| Veolia Center | 10833 W. Five Mile Rd., Northville | 248-349-4444 | Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, and plastic. Free of charge. www.veolines.com |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Ammunition

Only buy the amount of ammunition you know you will use. Disposing of ammunition in your regular trash poses a grave danger to solid waste handlers. Contact your community police department to see if they will accept ammunition. If not, call the local State Police (check phone book for your area). You may also contact your sheriff's office.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Oakland County Sheriff's Office | 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Bldg. 38 E, Waterford | 248-858-5000 | www.oakgov.com/sheriff |
| Wayne County Sheriff's Office | 1231 St. Antoine, Detroit | 313-224-2222 | www.waynecounty.com/sheriff |



Antifreeze/Automotive Fluids

Antifreeze contains a very hazardous chemical, ethylene glycol, that should not be disposed in trash, sewers, or drains. This chemical tastes and smells sweet, making it attractive to children and pets-store it out of their reach! Antifreeze does not go bad. Make sure to use up the whole bottle before you buy another one.

Some full service gas stations will take antifreeze for recycling. Check with the service station that you frequent. The following facilities also accept these items for disposal. Call for specific guidelines and hours of operation.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Darryl's Firestone | 23534 Farmington Rd., Farmington | 248-477-9090 | Unmixed fluids only. |
| EQ Detroit Inc. | 1923 Frederick St., Detroit | 313-923-0080; Hotline/Questions 313-923-2240 | Open to public. Free to Detroit residents. Call to make arrangements. |
| Fast Lane Quick Lube | 5881 Canton Center Rd., Canton | 734-451-9722 | Free of charge. |
| Tommy's Firestone | 43111 Grand River Ave., Novi | 248-348-2080 | Fee charged. |



Appliances

Usable Appliances: Many service organizations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area accept appliances in working order for reuse. A few suggestions are listed below; call for specific guidelines. Also, see listings for Thrift Stores/Charities on page 27.

Unusable Appliances: Appliances that cannot be repaired often have components that can be recycled. By weight, the typical washer, dryer, stove, and refrigerator consists of 75% steel which is 100% recyclable. Contact your community's DPW to find out if a pick-up or drop-off program for unwanted appliances is available. For a listing on Freon removal from refrigerators, see pg. 18.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 12630 Greenfield, Detroit | 313-653-4890 | Call to schedule donations. www.habitatdetroit.org/restore |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 170 April Dr., Ann Arbor | 734-822-1530 | Donations accepted Tu-Sa 9-3. |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Appliances continued

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Furniture Bank of Oakland | 333 N. Perry, Pontiac | 248-332-1300 | Accepts working, used appliances. Built-in appliances, dishwashers, freezers, and appliances over 12 years of age are not accepted. Call to schedule appointment. |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 150 Osmon St., Pontiac | 248-338-9148 | Call to schedule appointment. A \$20 tax-deductible fee may be added to pick-up orders. |
| John R. Appliances | 26529 John R, Madison Heights | 248-541-8696 | Accepts working, used appliances. |
| Purple Heart | 987 Manufacturers Dr., Westland | 734-728-4560 | Accepts light appliances (i.e., blenders, toasters, etc.). Call to schedule pick-up. |



Art Supplies

The following non-profit organizations accept a variety of unique materials from businesses and individuals for creative re-use by crafters, artists, teachers, and children. Items accepted include, but are not limited to, various art supplies including paints, industrial scraps, ribbons, brushes, stickers, coffee cans with lids, wine corks, baby food jars, etc. *Please call first if you have questions on what is accepted.*

Also contact local schools, pre-schools, or day care centers.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Arts & Scraps | 16135 Harper Ave, Detroit | 313-640-4411 | www.artsandscraps.org |
| Scrap Box | 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor | 734-994-4420 | www.scrapbox.org |



Asbestos

If doing remodeling or demolition projects that involve asbestos, contact an area landfill (list on pg. 20) to find out special requirements. Homeowners may remove asbestos from their own residences, but precautions need to be taken and the waste must go to a licensed disposal site. Go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/453.html for information about safe removal of asbestos.



Baby Supplies

Consider buying baby supplies at resale shops or donating supplies to charitable organizations. It stretches your dollar, helps others and prevents usable items from going to the landfill. See the list of Thrift Stores on page 27. Many communities offer Mom-to-Mom sales. Check listings on the website www.mom2momlist.com.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| Baby Baby | 153 E. Main St., Northville | 248-347-2229 | |
| Once Upon a Child | 5804 N. Sheldon, Canton 19147 W. Rd., Woodhaven 3426 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 21323-25 Telegraph Rd., Southfield 6029 Rochester Rd., Troy | 734-459-6669 734-676-5700 734-971-6822 248-357-3266 248-828-7474 | Purchases gently used children's clothing, furniture, toys, books, and equipment. www.ouac.com |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Batteries-Automotive

Car batteries contain lead and sulfuric acid, and are prohibited for disposal in landfills or incinerators. Local battery recyclers can recycle the lead, sulfuric acid, and plastic casing. When you buy a new battery at a service station, ask them to recycle the old one.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Auto Zone | | | Check for locations nearest you. |
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd., Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne | 248-446-3001 or 800-852-8127 | Automotive, truck, boat, trailer, RV, motorcycle, and farm equipment batteries. www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Darryl's Firestone | 23534 Farmington Rd., Farmington | 248-477-9090 | Free of charge. |
| Fast Lane Quick Lube | 5881 Canton Center Rd., Canton | 734-451-9722 | Free of charge. |
| Knight Resource Group/Enviro-Tech | 27777 Franklin Rd., Southfield | 248-354-1772 | Fee charged. |
| Murray's Discount Auto Stores | | | Check for locations nearest you. |
| Novi Auto Parts | 43131 Grand River, Novi | 248-349-2800 | |
| Recycle Ann Arbor | 2950 E. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor | 734-971-7400 | www.recycleannarbor.org |
| Resource Restoration | 3154 Martin Rd., Commerce Twp. | 248-960-4924 | Fee charged. |
| Tommy's Firestone | 43111 Grand River, Novi | 248-348-2080 | Fee charged. |



Batteries-Household

The facilities listed below will accept household batteries for proper disposal and recycling. Check with your community to see if they accept batteries as part of your recycling program or at your annual household hazardous waste collection.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|---|---|--|
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd., Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne | 248-446-3001 or 800-852-8127 734-467-9110 | Cell phone, lap top computer, flash-light, camera, watch, 2-way, hearing aid, and electric tool batteries. www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority (CWCSA) | 28200 S. Huron Rd., Flat Rock | 734-722-9980 for drop-off locations. | Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne, and Westland residents only. |
| EQ Detroit Inc. | 1923 Frederick St., Detroit | 313-923-0080 | Open to public. Free to Detroit Residents. Call to make arrangements. |



Bicycles

Back Alley Bikes, a program of Detroit Summer, refurbishes working bicycles for local children. Bikes that don't work are used for artwork. Bring your bikes to their Cass Avenue location, just north of Comerica Park. Please call first. 313-879-5073.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office collects new, used, or in need of repair bikes for its *Sheriff's Re-CYCLE for Kids* program and makes them available at no cost to children through local youth organizations. For more information, call 248-858-1947.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Books

Share books and magazines with friends. If you are interested in paperbacks or best sellers, find a book trading club to join. Getting a library card will also allow you to check out books and return them at your own leisure. Many organizations will happily take your books for reuse. Most libraries and many non-profit organizations will accept used books. Another option is to sell your books to a used bookstore, who often pay a small amount for old books or give points toward any books you purchase from them.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Another Look Books | 22263 Goddard Rd., Taylor | 734-374-5665 | |
| John K. King Books | 901 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit 22524 Woodward Ave., Ferndale | 313-961-0622 248-548-9050 | |
| Paperbacks & Things | 8044 N. Wayne Rd., Westland | 734-522-8018 | Serving Westland and Wayne County. www.paperbacknthings.com |
| Read It Again Books | 39733 Grand River Ave., Novi | 248-474-6066 | |
| Second Story Used Books | 17920 E. 10 Mile Rd., Eastpointe | 586-773-6440 | |

If the books are ultimately unwanted, you can take them for recycling.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Great Lakes Recycling | 30615 Groesbeck, Roseville | 866-464-5746 | |
| Royal Oak Waste Paper & Metal Co. | 414 E. Hudson Ave., Royal Oak | 248-541-4020 | Open to public. www.royalokrecycling.com |



Building Materials

If you have items that might be useful to someone else, visit available freecycling website like www.freecycle.org or check out the following list.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit | 4885 15th St., Detroit | 313-515-0399 | Architectural antiques, salvage, and reuse. www.aswdetroit.org |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 12630 Greenfield, Detroit | 313-653-4890 | Donations are tax deductible. Call to schedule donations. www.habitatdetroit.org/restore |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 170 April Dr., Ann Arbor | 734-822-1530 | Donations accepted Tu-Sa 9-3. |

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore sells surplus new and used building materials and home items at 50-90% less than retail prices. All items sold at the ReStore are donated. Proceeds from the ReStore support Habitat for Humanity in building new, decent, affordable homes. Check out www.habitatdetroit.org.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Building Materials Continued

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Recycle Ann Arbor Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Center | 2950 E. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor | 734-971-7400 734-222-7880 | www.recycleannarbor.org |
| Odom Re-Use Company | 5555 Brentwood Ave N., Grawn | 231-276-6330 | You can donate, trade-in, sell, post, or buy reusable building supplies. Odom will pick up items within a 25 mile radius, or up to 250 miles for large commercial or institutional jobs, like high schools. www.odomreuse.com |



Clothing & Shoes

See Thrift Stores list on page 27.



Construction Waste-Bricks & Concrete

If you have items that might be useful to someone else, visit available freecycling websites at www.freecycle.org or check out the following list. These items may also be taken to area landfills (see list on page 20).

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Angelo's Crushed Concrete Inc. | 15150 Oakland St., Highland Park | 313-869-5550 | Concrete is accepted for \$10/pick-up truck. |
| Detroit Recycled Concrete Co. | 14294 Meyers Rd., Detroit | 313-934-7677 | Concrete is accepted for \$5/load regardless of amount. |
| GBM Recycled Concrete | Drop-off locations may vary. | 810-231-5188 | Call in advance for drop-off information. |
| Michigan Crushed Concrete Inc. | 25012 Plymouth Rd., Redford | 313-534-1500 | \$5 fee thrown off by hand. \$10 fee with wire. |
| Novi Crushed Concrete | 46900 Twelve Mile, Novi | 248-305-6020 | Clean broken concrete from all dump trucks accepted at no charge. |
| State Crushing | 2260 Auburn Rd., Auburn Hills | 248-332-6210 | Fee varies. Accepts concrete, bricks, leaves, brush, logs, wood chips, and soil. |
| T.J. Fiore | 33300 Mound Rd., Sterling Heights | 586-939-6200 | |



Cooking Oil/Grease

Do not pour fat, oil or grease (FOG) down drains or garbage disposals! FOG build-up from sewers increase maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer system. FOG can create sewer overflows. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fat, oil and grease out of our sewers. Follow these tips:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10-15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Many area restaurants will allow residents to use their grease collection units. Contact your local restaurant first. Otherwise, contact: A&A Grease Service 800-598-7047.



Dry Cleaners Supplies

The best option is to reuse the extra hangers that accumulate in your closet from the dry cleaners. Many dry cleaners in the area will take back used hangers for recycling. Ask your local dry cleaner about this service. All hangers should be in good condition with no rust showing. You can also reuse the plastic bags from your dry cleaners for lining home trash containers. For a non-toxic alternative to dry cleaning, ask your cleaner to wet-clean your garments. Check your area phone book for local dry cleaners.



Electronics & Computers

Many electronic items are repairable and reusable. Even if you need to get a better stereo system, someone would probably be more than thrilled to take your old stereo or computer. Try placing an ad in the classified section of the newspaper, donate to a charitable organization, or offer it on available freecycle websites like www.freecycle.org.

TIP: Make sure you delete all files off of your hard drive or simply remove the hard drive and crush before donating any computers. Ensuring the safety and security of your data is your responsibility.

Many municipalities are realizing the problems associated with the disposal of electronics and are stepping up to help their residents. Check with your community to find out if electronics are accepted at your annual Household Hazardous Waste collection.

Costco has a zero landfill, free-e-waste recycling program. The trade-in program is available to all customers of Costco who elect to trade-in or recycle any qualifying consumer electronic product currently offered by the program (based on the configuration and condition of your item). Costco will offer to purchase your item at the value displayed by the trade-in value estimator. For more information go to www.costco.com.

Office Depot stores across the country are now offering a low cost recycling service for consumer electronics. Boxes can be purchased for \$5, \$10, or \$15. The box is then returned to the store. The store will then ship the material for recycling. For more information go to www.officedepot.com.

Staples will accept used electronics such as computers, monitors, and laptops for recycling. A recycling fee of \$10 per piece of large equipment is charged. Smaller computer items such as keyboards, mice and speakers are accepted at no charge. Cell phones, PDAs, pagers, digital cameras and chargers are accepted for free and refurbished when feasible. A portion of the proceeds are donated to charity. For more information go to www.staples.com.

Also, check with the companies listed below for recycling. Always call first to see if there is a charge.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| A Investment Rarities of Michigan | 2390 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor | 734-973-8577 | Computers less than 2 years old. |
| Classic Computer Recovery, Inc. | 32400 Ford Rd., Garden City | 734-293-5857 734-732-1090 | www.classiccomputerrecovery.com |
| Cleanlites Recycling | 665 Hull Rd., Mason | 517-676-0044 | |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Electronics & Computers Continued

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| CompRenew Environmental | 629 Ionia Ave. SW, Grand Rapids 8195 Graphic Dr., Belmont | 616-451-4400 616-866-3100 | Provides drop off center, or you can ship units to them marked "residential donation." www.comprenew.com |
| Dell Corporation | | 800-915-3355 | Provides free recycling for all Dell components. www.dell.com/recycle |
| Full Circle Recyclers | 1223 Clopton Bridge, Rochester | 248-651-6589 | |
| Goodwill Industries | 3111 Grand River Ave., Detroit | 313-964-3900 | www.goodwilldetroit.com |
| Great Lakes Electronic Corporation | 12600 Greenfield Rd., Detroit | 313-838-7000 | www.recycleelectronics.com |
| Great Lakes Recycling | 30615 Groesbeck Hwy., Roseville | 866-464-5746 | |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 12630 Greenfield, Detroit | 313-653-4890 | Computers in working order. |
| Hornicks | 1038 N Saginaw St., St. Charles | 989-201-3998 | |
| IBM | | 888-746-7486 | |
| Intermet, LTD. | 6000 Buchanan, Detroit | 313-894-0545 | |
| Innovative Recycling & Waste Services Inc. (IRWS) | 28265 Beck Road, Suite C6, Wixom 12632 Ten Mile Rd., South Lyon | 800-440-1641 248-446-5052 | Price/pound fee may apply. |
| Kimmel Scrap Iron and Metal | 10571 W. Grand River, Detroit | 313-934-1100 | |
| Metro Recycling Systems | 665 Hull Rd., Mason | 800-527-0057 | |
| Recycle Ann Arbor Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Center | 2950 E. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor | 734-971-7400 734-222-7880 | Recycles toner cartridges, computers & components. Accepts reusable equipment. www.recycleannarbor.org |
| Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA) | 3910 W. Webster, Royal Oak | 248-288-5150 | Will accept most electronic equipment from SOCRRA member communities. www.socrra.org |
| SQS Environmental Group | 13040 Merriman, Livonia | 734-459-3800 | Hours: M-F, 8:30-12:30. Open to public. Fee may apply. Call to make arrangements. www.sqsenvironmental.com |

For information on recycling CD's and DVD's, contact Green Disk at 800-305-Disk or www.greendisk.com.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Eyeglasses

The Lions Clubs International, which has been collecting and recycling used eyeglasses for more than 60 years, works with many local optical centers for the collection of used glasses including, lenses, frames, and sunglasses. Check the phone book for a participating optical center near you.



Fire Extinguishers

The best way to dispose of old extinguishers is to turn them in to the retailer when buying a replacement unit. For retailers, check the phone book under *Fire Protection Equipment-Repairing and Servicing*. Completely discharged extinguishers may be disposed in your regular trash.



Fluorescent Lights and Bulbs

Fluorescent light bulbs, including the compact fluorescent variety, contain mercury and are considered hazardous waste. Spent lighting products are the second largest source of mercury contamination in municipal solid waste systems. Mercury is very toxic to humans and animals and requires proper disposal procedures (see more information about mercury on page 5 and page 21).

TIP: If a light bulb breaks, open a window to let vapors escape and leave the room for 15 minutes. Wear disposable rubber gloves and clean up the area with a wet paper towel or single-use wipe. Double plastic bag everything for disposal. Most fluorescent light bulbs will be accepted at your community's annual household hazardous waste day. For more options contact the companies listed below.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd., Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne | 248-446-30001 or 800-852-8127 | www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Chemical Analytics | 29959 Beverly Rd., Romulus | 734-326-9400 | |
| SQS Environmental Group | 13040 Merriman, Livonia | 734-459-3800 | Hours: M-F, 8:30-12:30. Open to public. Fee may apply. Call to make arrangements. www.sqsenvironmental.com |



Freon

Freon (CFC-12) and other chlorofluorocarbons deplete the ozone layer when allowed to escape into the atmosphere, they were phased out of production in 1995. Appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, and dehumidifiers that contain freon must have the freon removed by a professional service prior to disposal. Contact your municipality regarding this requirement prior to placing such items on the curb. The following companies remove freon.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| AAA Service Network & Parts | 9800 Marshall Rd., South Lyon | 248-437-3243 | Fee charged. www.aaaservicenetwork.com |
| Air Care of Livonia | 30870 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia | 734-425-0074 | |
| Golden Refrigerant | 12901 Newburgh Rd., Livonia | 800-292-6911 734-793-1400 | www.goldenrefrigerant.com |
| Phil's Electrical Services | 50 S. Williams Lake Rd., White Lake | 800-559-1411 | Fee charged. Call for appointment. www.phils.com |
| McGee Appliance | 359 N. Warren St., South Lyon | 877-650-0522 | Fee charged. Call for appointment. |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Furniture

There are many organizations that accept used furniture for donation. See *Thrift Stores* listing on page 27.



Greeting Cards

The following facilities will accept greeting cards for reuse in craft projects.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Arts & Scraps | 16135 Harper Ave., Detroit | 313-640-4411 | www.artsandscraps.org |
| Bovenschen School | 12345 Frazho Rd., Warren | 586-757-7880 | |
| Scrap Box | 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor | 734-994-4420 | www.scrapbox.org |

You can also contact your local elementary school to see if they use donated greeting cards. You can also recycle them.



Helium Tanks

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|
| Larry's Welding Supply | 514 Hilton, Ferndale | 248-548-0440 | Empty helium tanks under 5' for swap and any size Air Co tanks (name embossed on collar). |



Inkjet & Laser Cartridges

All US Post Offices provide prepaid mailing envelopes for used inkjet cartridges. The cartridges are sent for recycling. Check with your local post office for details. Toxic chemicals in toner cartridges can pose health and environmental problems if disposed of in a solid waste landfill. The following organizations offer toner cartridge recycling services.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| All-Tech Business Products | 260 Airport Industrial Dr., Ypsilanti | 734-482-0640 | |
| Laser Solutions | 715 W. Ellsworth Rd., Ann Arbor | 734-662-6667 | |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Inkjet & Laser Cartridges Continued

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Nationwide Laser Technologies | 27600 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills | 248-488-0155 | |
| Office Depot | 28512 Telegraph, Southfield 17335 Haggerty, Northville | 248-353-8700 248-344-7117 | Accepts HP, Lexmark, and Dell. www.officedepot.com |
| Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Center Recycle Ann Arbor | 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 2950 E. Ellsworth | 734-222-7800 734-971-7400 | Open to general public. www.recycleannarbor.org |
| Staples | | 800-378-2753 | Has three different ink and toner cartridge recycling programs. Call your local Staples store, or go to www.staples.com |



Landfills

These facilities accept waste from residents for a fee. Please call first if you have questions.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Carleton Farms Landfill | 28800 Clark Rd., New Boston | 734-654-3615 | |
| Oakland Heights Development | 2350 Brown Rd., Auburn Hills | 248-373-2334 | Minimum charge applies. |
| Riverview Land Preserve | 20863 Grange Rd., Riverview | 734-281-4263 | Minimum charge applies. |
| Sauk Trail Hills | 5011 S. Lilley Rd., Canton Twp. | 734-397-2623 | Minimum charge applies. No tires, paint, or grass clippings. |
| Veolia Center | 10690 Six Mile, Northville | 248-349-7230 | Open to the public. Fee charged. www.veoliaes.com |
| Waste Management Eagle Valley Landfill | 600 W. Silverbell Rd., Lake Orion | 248-391-0990 | |
| Woodland Meadows Recycling & Disposal Facility | 5900 Hannan Rd., Van Buren Twp. | 734-326-0993 | Free to Van Buren residents (call for details). Fee applies to outside residents. |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Medical Waste/Pharmaceuticals

You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home.

Sharps: You should place needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharp objects in a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid. Many containers found in the household, such as liquid laundry detergent bottles or metal coffee cans, will do, or you may purchase containers specifically designed for the disposal of medical waste sharps. To dispose, you may choose one of the following methods:

- 1.) Place them in a proper sharps container and bring to a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- 2.) Reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape, label "Not Recyclable" and place container in your regular trash
- 3.) Contact a Medical Waste Disposal Service. A list is available at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste (select "Medical Waste").

Do not put sharp objects in any container you plan to recycle or return to a store and do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Finally, make sure that you keep all containers with sharp objects out of the reach of children and pets. We also recommend that soiled bandages, disposable sheets, and medical gloves be placed in securely fastened plastic bags. For an informational brochure about medical waste go to www.waynecounty.com/doi.

Medical Equipment: Some types of medical supplies can be reused. These include walkers, canes, wheel chairs, and crutches. The organizations listed below accept medical supplies for redistribution. Please call first.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| American Cancer Society | | 800-227-2345 | www.cancer.org |
| Medical Loan Closet-Emmanuel Lutheran Church | 201 N. River Blvd., Ypsilanti | 734-482-7121 | Provides a loan service for reusable medical equipment. Will accept used items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and shower chairs. |

Pharmaceuticals: The new Federal prescription drug disposal guidelines are designed to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment. These guidelines urge Americans to:

- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets.
- Throw these containers in the trash.
- Contact your local pharmacy to see if they have a take-back program in place for unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs.
- Remember: Never flush unused medicines down the toilet or down drains as they can contaminate local rivers and streams.



Mercury

Please see page 5 for specific information on the dangers of mercury in your home. The following locations will accept mercury-containing items for recycling. Always call first.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Battery Solutions Inc. | 7266 Kensington Rd., Brighton 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne | 248-446-3001 or 800-852-8127 | www.batteryrecycling.com |
| Chemical Analytics | 29959 Beverly Rd., Romulus | 734-326-9400 | |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Mercury Continued

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| EQ Detroit Inc. | 1923 Frederick St., Detroit | 313-923-0080 | |
| SQS Environmental Group | 13040 Merriman, Livonia | 734-459-3800 | Hours: M-F, 8:30-12:30. Open to public. Fee may apply. Call to make arrangements. www.sqsenvironmental.com |



Metals

Metals are perhaps the most recycled commodity throughout the world. Most of the communities in the Rouge River communities collect some sort of metal in their recycling program. Larger metal items, such as aluminum siding, tools, lawn mowers, refrigerators, and cars contain a variety of recyclable metals. Check in the "Scrap Metal" section of the yellow pages for listings of businesses or organizations that may take or buy it from you.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Great Lakes Recycling | 30615 Groesbeck Hwy., Roseville | 866-464-5746 | |
| NPR Recycling Inc. | 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus | 734-721-0197 | |
| Royal Oak Waste Paper and Metal | 414 East Hudson Ave., Royal Oak | 248-541-4020 | |



Motor Oil

Used motor oil contains toxic impurities such as lead and cadmium and can pose serious threats to our environment if improperly disposed. If oil is poured onto the ground or down the sewer, toxic substances could eventually end up in area lakes and rivers. Therefore, it is of great importance that used motor oil be properly disposed. Used motor oil can be easily recycled at many local gas and service stations. It has been shown that recycled motor oil performs as well as new oil during vehicle operation. When a service station changes your oil, it recycles the old oil. When changing your own oil, place it into a sturdy, sealed, clear container (such as a milk jug), and deliver it to one of the facilities listed below for recycling or contact your community's Department of Public Works to see if they will accept it.

Motor oil can be taken for recycling at any Mobil service facility, Murray's Discount Auto Parts stores, Advanced Auto Parts, Auto Zone, or Uncle Ed's Auto Shoppe. Always call first.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Pacific Oil Resources Inc. | 44141 Yost Rd., Belleville | 734-397-1120 | Motor oil in 5 gallon containers or smaller at no charge. |
| Buck's Oil Co. | 30110 Beverly Rd., Romulus | 734-728-3280 | Fee may apply. |



Needles/Sharps

See Medical Waste/Pharmaceuticals, pg. 21.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Packing Materials

Avoid using non-recyclable packing materials, like Styrofoam. Try to use newspaper or shredded office paper whenever possible. You can even use real popcorn which can then be composted when you're finished. Many packing stores and other organizations will accept your used packing materials for reuse. You can also save the material for your own reuse. The following locations will accept some types of packaging materials for reuse or recycling. Call for specific guidelines.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Dart Container Corp. | 500 Hogsback Rd., Mason | 517-676-3803 | Styrofoam only. www.dartcontainer.com |
| Handle With Care Packaging Store | 22122 Ford Rd., Dearborn | 313-563-3100 | |
| Mail Express | 1756 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor | 734-747-7900 | |
| John's Pack & Ship | 295 N. Maple Rd., Ann Arbor | 734-665-2664 | Styrofoam only. www.moveum.com |
| Mail Boxes, Etc. | | | Check phone book for locations. www.mbe.com |
| Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southeast Michigan (RRRASOC) | 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd., Southfield | 248-208-2270 | Styrofoam and cardboard. www.rrrasoc.org/recycling |
| Veolia Center | 10833 W. Five Mile, Northville | 248-349-4444 | Free of charge. www.veoliaes.com |



Paint

Buy only as much as you need to complete the job. Try to share leftover paint with neighbors and friends. Leftover paint in good condition can also be donated to organizations (see list below). For paint that cannot be shared or donated, consider the following disposal guidelines.

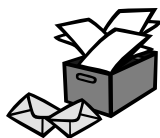
Latex - paint is only a disposal problem while in its liquid form. Once dried out, it can be safely disposed of with your regular trash. Sawdust or cat litter can be added to speed up the drying process.

Oil - based paints and paint thinners contain solvents that are flammable and evaporate quickly, creating fumes that can be harmful. Many paints contain heavy metals such as cadmium, and oil paints can contain lead. These materials can pose grave threats to human health and the environment if disposed of improperly.

The following will accept paint as a donation. To dispose of paint see HHW information on page 3.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 12630 Greenfield, Detroit | 313-653-4890 | Donations are tax deductible. Call to schedule donations. www.habitatdetroit.org/restore |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 170 Aprill Dr., Ann Arbor | 734-822-1530 | Donations accepted Tues-Sat 9-3. |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore | 150 Osmun St., Pontiac | 248-338-9148 | Full cans of non-oil based paint accepted for donation. |
| Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Center | 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor | 734-222-7880 | www.recycleannarbor.org |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Paper/Cardboard

The following is a list of private paper brokers that service the Tri-County area. Each broker provides a different level of service. Some accept all types of paper including magazines and cardboard. Some provide pick-up service and/or drop-off locations. We recommend that you shop for one that best suits your needs. Also, contact your city/township DPW for information on drop-off centers they may offer.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Great Lakes Recycling | 30615 Groesbeck Hwy., Roseville | 586-779-1310 | Free of charge. |
| Iron Mountain Secure Shredding | 7277 N. Haggerty, Canton | 877-737-4123 | www.ironmountain.com |
| Midstates Fibres | 990 Decker Rd., Walled Lake | 248-960-9000 | |
| NPR Recycling Inc. | 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus | 734-721-0197 | |
| Recycled Paperboard Products | 10400 Devine St., Detroit | 313-579-6608 | |
| Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southeast Michigan (RRRASOC) | 20000 W. 8 Mile Rd., Southfield | 248-208-2270 | |
| Royal Oak Waste Paper & Metal Co. | 414 E. Hudson Ave., Royal Oak | 248-541-4020 | Open to public. www.royaloakrecycling.com |
| Safeway Shredding | 50200 Dennis, Wixom | 1-877-667-4733 | www.safewayshredding.com |
| Shred It | 1351 Combermere Dr., Troy | 248-588-1993 | www.shredit.com |
| Veolia Center | 10833 Five Mile, Northville | 248-349-4444 | Free of charge. www.veoliaes.com |



Plastic Grocery Bags

Whenever possible, reuse plastic grocery bags or use your own canvas bag to help reduce waste. Finding a recycler that accepts old plastic grocery bags from residents is not easy. Wal Mart accepts plastic grocery bags for recycling. Check with area schools and churches to see if they collect them. SOCRRA accepts plastic bags from member community residents only. Contact the SOCRRA Drop-Off Center at 248-288-5150. RRRASOC recycles plastic bags from member community residents only, call 248-208-2270. Recycle Ann Arbor also accepts plastic grocery bags, call 734-971-7400.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Propane Tanks

Check the yellow pages for companies that refill tanks. If you must dispose, contact the facilities listed below. A nominal fee may be charged. Policies may change, please call first.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Livonia True Value Hardware & Home Center | 33533 Five Mile Rd., Livonia | 734-422-1155 | |
| Plymouth Equipment Rental | 41889 Ford Rd., Canton Twp | 734-981-0240 | |
| Progressive Lift Truck LLC | 33900 W. Nine Mile Rd., Farmington | 248-477-0650 | |
| Town & Country Hardware | 27740 Ford Rd., Garden City | 734-422-2750 | |
| Township True Value | 25880 Five Mile, Redford | 313-533-0020 | |
| Wrights Hardware | 29150 W. Five Mile, Livonia | 734-422-2210 | |



RV Dump Stations

Protect the environment by disposing of your recreational vehicle waste properly. DO NOT DUMP! The following facilities in the area accept RV waste. A nominal fee may be charged, policies may change. Please call first.

When out of the area, please find a proper disposal area. For a further listing of RV dump sites throughout the State of Michigan, go to www.rvdumps.com/mi.htm.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| A&S RV Center | 2375 N. Opdyke Rd., Auburn Hills | 248-373-5811 | |
| Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant | 9300 West Jefferson, Detroit | 313-297-0275 | Free of charge. Open 24 hours. |
| Feisters RV | 37401 Ford Road, Westland | 734-721-2400 | |
| Walt Michal's RV Center | 44700 N. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville | 734-697-2500 | www.wmrvs.com |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Septic System Waste

Go to www.michigan.gov/deq and select “Water”, “Surface Water”, “Septage” for a list of licensed septage waste haulers and for links on proper management of septic tanks. Be sure to pump your tank every 3-5 years. For further questions, call your county Health Department.



Smoke Detectors

Because smoke detectors contain radioactive materials, they may not be accepted at local Household Hazardous Waste collections. Contact your local municipality. The best thing to do is to send them back to the manufacturer, in the original box if possible. There may be a nominal fee for disposal, please call first.

Contact the following manufacturers for instructions.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--|
| American Sensors | | 800-387-4219 | |
| Family Safety Products | | 205-663-3855 (x2879) | |
| First Alert | | 800-323-9005 | First Alert, BRK, and Family Guard smoke detectors accepted. |
| Gentex Corp. | | 616-772-1800 | |
| Honeywell | | 763-954-5204 | |
| Interactive Technologies | | 651-777-2690 | |
| Maple Chase | | 630-719-5500 | |
| Masterguard | | 972-446-9966 | |
| Nighthawk Systems/Kidde | | 800-880-6788 | |
| Radio Shack | | | Check for location nearest you. |
| Sears | | | Check for location nearest you. |
| Sentrol | | 503-692-4052 | Ask for Service Department. |
| System Sensor | | 630-377-6580 (x3825) | Only accepts System Sensor brand smoke detectors. |
| Triad Safety Systems Inc. | | 308-236-7062 | Only accepts Responsive brand smoke detectors. |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Thrift Stores, Resale Stores & Charities

Check the white pages to contact charities for guidelines on donations. These charities accept donations of goods: Boysville of Michigan, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, Habitat for Humanity, Haven, Purple Heart, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul Society, and Vietnam Veterans of America. Also, check the yellow pages under Thrift Stores or Resale shops for listings in your area.

Websites: (membership may be required)

- www.craigslist.org
- www.freecycle.org
- www.freesharing.org



Tires

Some tire dealers will accept old tires to be recycled for a nominal fee. Policies may change, so please call first. Check the yellow pages in your area for additional listings.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Belle Tire | | | Check for location nearest you. |
| CM Rubber Recycling | 4602 W. Saginaw Rd., Coleman | 989-465-0200 | |
| Darryl's Firestone | 23534 Farmington Rd., Farmington | 248-477-9090 | |
| Environmental Rubber Recycling | 6515 N. Dort Hwy., Flint | 810-789-1222 | |
| March Tire Co. | 5757 N. Sheldon Rd., Canton Twp | 734-454-0440 | |
| Ariel Automotive | 33014 Grand River Ave., Farmington | 248-477-0670 | |
| North Hill Tire & Auto | 1031 N. Main St., Rochester | 248-652-6883 | |
| Northwest Tune-up Mobile | Farmington Hills | 248-553-4080 | |
| Recycle Ann Arbor | 2950 E. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor | 734-971-7400 | Open to general public. Fees apply. www.recycleannarbor.org |
| Sears Auto Centers | | | Check for location nearest you. |
| Silver Lining Recycling | 3776 11th St., Wyandotte | 734-324-4800 | |
| Tommy's Firestone | 43111 Grand River Ave., Novi | 248-348-2080 | |
| Waddle's Tire Service | 20156 Sibley Rd., Brownstown Twp. | 734-283-1644 | |
| Wyoming Tire Service | 15011 Wyoming St., Detroit | 313-491-5730 | |

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal



Video Tapes

) Video tapes can be reused or recycled.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Arts & Scraps | 16135 Harper Ave., Detroit | 313-640-4411 | Accepts video tapes for use in creative art projects for area students. www.artsandscraps.org |
| EcoMedia | 5429 E. LaPalma Ave., Anaheim Hills, CA 92807 | 800-959-5156 Ext 6882 | Audio and video tapes accepted. Fee charged. |
| Recycle Ann Arbor | 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor | 734-662-6288 | |



Yard Waste

Yard waste has been banned for disposal in landfills in Michigan since 1995. Yard waste is leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or brush or tree trimmings, less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, that can be converted to compost humus. Yard clippings do not include stumps, agricultural wastes, animal waste, roots, sewage sludge, or garbage.

The composting, or natural breakdown, of yard clippings is recommended. Most Rouge River watershed communities have curbside collection of yard clippings, which are then taken to area compost facilities.

For information regarding programs in your communities, contact your city or township DPW offices.

| Name | Address | Phone Number | Notes |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Carleton Farms-Republic Waste Services | 28800 Clark Rd., Sumpter Township | 734-654-3615 | Fee charged. |
| Environmental Wood Solutions | 3500 Giddings Rd., Orion | 248-391-9446 | Fee charged. Wood debris, pallets, and other natural fibers. |
| Northville Compost Yard-City of Northville | 650 Doheny, Northville | 248-349-1300 | Yard waste drop-off program for Northville residents only. Compost available to all. |
| Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA) | 3910 W. Webster, Royal Oak | 248-288-5150 | Grass and leaves only. Free to SOCRRA member communities. Fee to outside communities. |
| Taylor Compost-City of Taylor | 16300 Racho Rd., Taylor | 734-284-7197 | Fee charged. |
| Veolia Center | 10690 Six Mile Rd., Northville | 248-349-7230 | Open to the public. Fee charged. www.veoliaes.com |
| Ypsilanti Township Compost Site | 2600 East Clark Rd., Ypsilanti | 734-482-6681 | Residents only Apr.-Nov., Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-4 Dec.-Mar., Sat. only 9-4 |

Home Composting & Yard Clippings

What Should Be Composted?

Anything organic or once alive will compost. Whether a specific organic should be composted depends on whether you are able and willing to control the potential nuisances, expend the necessary effort or have enough materials. A commercial composting toilet is available, for example, but the composting of human manure is not for everyone! At the other end of the spectrum are the easiest compostables, yard clippings and various food wastes. In order to compost effectively, it is useful to know and understand the composting recipe listed below:



Generic Composting Recipe

- Mix 1 part Green, 2 parts Brown
- Add Soil (several shovels full; optional)
- Add Water (to make it as wet as a wrung-out sponge)
- Mix

Carbon/Brown

Autumn Leaves
Straw
Wood Chips
Newspaper



Nitrogen/Green

Vegetable Scraps
Coffee Grounds
Grass Clippings



Note: There are also some materials that should be avoided: meat or animal products, oils or food cooked with oils, dog or cat feces, glossy paper, charcoal ashes, diseased plants, invasive plants and seeds, as well as plants recently treated with pesticides or long-lived chemicals like arsenic.

7 Steps To Better Composting

1. Pick a well-drained spot in your yard to set up compost bin or pile.
2. Gather as much of a variety of compostable ingredients as you can.
3. Chop or grind larger compost ingredients. This will speed up the decomposition process.
4. Build your compost pile in layers.
5. Bury food scraps in the center of the pile so that the neighborhood wildlife aren't tempted to dig in.
6. Turn the pile with a garden fork a couple of times a month (or more frequently if you like) and add water when needed. It takes as little as two weeks or as long as several months to "cook." The compost will be ready when it is dark brown, crumbly and earthy-smelling.
7. Enjoy the fruits of your labor by adding compost to your lawn and/or garden.

Once You Have Finished Compost

- Use finished compost from the bottom of the bin or pile.
- Cultivate the soil around the plants you wish to enrich with compost.
- Spread the compost in 1-3 inch thick layers around the plants or tree.

Note: Be careful not to allow compost to touch plants or tree bark directly; this may cause harm to plants through decomposition.

When To Compost

Since food waste is generated year-round and yard waste is seasonal, there may be variations in the composting system throughout the year.

- **Spring & Summer:** Leaves (saved from the fall) can be mixed with grass clippings and other yard waste.
- **Fall:** Compost leaves and kitchen scraps, mulch or plant cover crops.
- **Winter:** Indoor vermi-composting and garbage-can composting are useful this time of year. Garbage-can composting uses an actual garbage can for a compost bin. Vermi-composting means using earth worms to decompose organic matter.

Uses For Compost

Compost can be used for a variety of applications. Most often people use it to prepare a plant bed for the following growing season, amend the soil of an established garden, make compost tea to use on houseplants, or rake into the lawn to add nutrients back to the soil.

Home Composting & Yard Clippings

When Compost Goes Rotten - What's The Problem?

- **Foul Odor:** The reason could be that there is not enough air or too much moisture in the pile. You can solve this problem by turning the pile and adding dry material if the pile is too wet.
- **Warm and damp only in the middle:** The reason could be that the pile is too small. Solve this problem by adding more materials.
- **Pile is damp but won't heat up:** The reason for this might be lack of nitrogen or not enough air. To solve this problem, add grass clippings or other nitrogen sources and turn the pile.

Become a Master Composter and learn the benefits of composting, yard waste reduction, and healthy lawn and gardening

The Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) offers a Master Composter course once a year, usually in March. Contact SOCWA at 248-288-5150.

Washtenaw County Planning and Environment Department offers composting workshops. Call Washtenaw County at 734-222-6874 for more information.

The Wayne County Department of Environment (WCDOE) offers a Master Composter Course, usually twice per year (spring and fall). For information on registering for the course, contact WCDOE at 734-326-3936.



Healthy Lawn Care Tips

Storm water runoff from home lawns contributes to the pollution of the area rivers and lakes. Problems are created when lawns are “overfed” with too much fertilizer and herbicide, when watering is excessive, and when grass is maintained on steep slopes or near the water’s edge. Maintain a green, river-safe lawn by following the healthy lawn practices outlined below. For more information about healthy lawn practices go to www.healthylandscapes.com

Mow Grass High

Leave 3 inches on the grass blade after cutting. all grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds. Let short clips fall back into the lawn, recycling nitrogen in a natural fashion.

Select Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

Select slow-release fertilizers which gradually contribute nitrogen to the grass roots. Slow-release fertilizers protect lakes and streams, promote and protect steady grass growth, protect microbial life in the soil, and do not burn grass. The Healthy Lawn and Garden Technical Advisory Committee for Wayne and Oakland Counties recommends slow-release fertilizers with 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release form. For additional water quality protections, select a fertilizer with no (or very low) phosphorus.

Don't Guess...Soil Test

A soil test indicates nutrient levels already in the soil—a first step in determining how much and what type of fertilizer is needed for the plants you are trying to grow. You may purchase the Michigan State University Extension (MSU Extension) soil nutrient tests through:



- Wayne County MSU Extension, 313-833-3412
- Oakland County MSU Extension, 248-858-0887
- MSU Extension of Washtenaw County, 734-997-1678

Nitrogen quantities recommended in the soil test can be reduced by 25% or more if the lawn is in partial shade, if soils already have 5% or more organic matter content and/or if clippings are left on the lawn.

Sweep Up Fertilizer From Paved Surfaces

Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily wash into storm drains, rivers, and lakes. Use a drop spreader, not a rotary spreader whenever possible. Sweep fertilizer from sidewalks back onto the lawn.

Measure Your Lawn Before Purchasing Fertilizer

Measure the lawn area to be covered then purchase only what you need. Remember, different types of grasses need different amounts of nitrogen to keep them healthy. Over the growing season, Kentucky bluegrass typically requires 4 or more pounds of nitrogen (N) per 1000 square feet, while fescues, ryegrasses, and grass mixtures require less nitrogen.



Leave A “No-Fertilizer” Zone Near Lakes And Rivers

Water quality experts in Michigan and other Midwest states recommend a “no fertilizer” riparian buffer zone with a width of 25 feet or more. Instead of lawn grass, consider native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and/or shrubs which trap soil and other pollutants.

Avoid Weed-And-Feed Combination Products

Combination fertilizer and weed control products often add unnecessary herbicides to the landscape. A better approach is to identify the weed of concern and selectively spot treat the weed(s). Many people find that a thick, healthy lawn combined with a modest amount of hand weeding, completely eliminates the need for herbicide.

Use Sifted Compost As A Top Dressing

Spread 1/2 inch of compost over an established lawn. Rake compost into the lawn, leaving a portion of the grass blade exposed to sunlight and air. Compost adds microorganisms, nutrients, and organic matter to help build soil.

Healthy Lawn Care Tips

Do Not Fertilize Before May

Lawns usually do not need fertilizer in April, especially if they have been fertilized the previous fall. Fertilizer in the early spring stimulates rapid, lush growth and increases dangers from disease and pests.

Look for the Earth-Friendly Fertilizer sticker at participating retailers. For a complete list of retailers go to www.socwa.org (Oakland County) or <http://www.waynecounty.com/doe/watershed/rivFriendlyLawnCare.htm> (Wayne County).



Below are some examples of Earth-Friendly Fertilizers with 50% or more of nitrogen in slow-release form.

- Lesco Professional Turf 32-0-10
- Safer Lawn Restorer 10-2-6
- Safer Natural Turf 8-1-1
- Scotts Organic Choice Lawn Food 11-2-2
- Soil Science 5-0-7
- Sustane (Lesco Product) 18-1-8
- Turf Nature 15-2-7
- Clean Green Soy Fertilizer 7-0-0
- Corn Gluten Pellets 9-0-0
- Fertrell Lawn Fertilizer 9-1-4 or 8-1-8
- Ringer Lawn Restore 10-2-6

River Friendly Practices . . . Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

1. Help Keep Pollution Out Of Storm Drains

Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains. Remember, only rain in the drain!



2. Fertilize Caringly

A healthy lawn protects our water by holding soil and pollutants in place and minimizing the need for pesticides. Practice good fertilizer practices by fertilizing in the fall for a vibrant spring lawn, avoid fertilizing on frozen ground and sweep fertilizer off of pavement and back onto the lawn. Use fertilizer meant for a lawn and follow the directions. Consider light, frequent watering during hotter parts of the day.

What can you do? Use fertilizer low in phosphorus, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is “water insoluble” (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn.

3. Carefully Store And Dispose Of Household Cleaners, Chemicals, And Oil

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams... instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, take them to a local hazardous waste center or collection day.



4. Clean Up After Your Pet

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there’s another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, dispose of your pet’s waste promptly in the toilet or trash.

5. Practice Good Car Care

Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car’s engine can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? There are over 4 million cars in Southeast Michigan, so even small leaks matter. Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly. Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. Consider taking your car to the car wash or washing your car on the grass. Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.



6. Choose Earth-Friendly Landscaping

When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. Use pesticides sparingly. Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (1-2 times a week is usually sufficient) and choose plants native to Michigan. Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.

7. Save Water

Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we over-water our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not on the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember, saving water also saves you money.



We might not be able to see the lake or stream from our window, but it's there. It might be a small stream or ditch or even the storm drain in the street. All of these lead to our lakes and streams. So, what we do at home affects our rivers and lakes!

Our Water. Our Future.



Keep this guide for future reference



Working together, restoring the river

**Funded in part by the Alliance of Rouge Communities and the
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