

NCTCOG 2016 – 2017 Materials Management Call for Projects Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Guidance Document

The proper management of household hazardous waste (HHW) is important in the North Central Texas region. The 2016-2017 Materials Management Call for Projects encourages proper management of HHW to minimize risk to human health and the environment, as well as danger to sanitation workers who may be inadvertently exposed to HHW improperly disposed of in the municipal waste stream.

What is HHW?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is defined as any solid waste classified as hazardous which is generated in a household by a consumer.

Goals of an HHW collection:

- Provide proper disposal of HHW
- Remove HHW from homes, thus reducing exposure and potential injury
- Reduce danger to waste collectors and other sanitation workers
- Increase general public awareness of the HHW found in most homes and how these materials may impact human health and the environment
- Educate residents as to the best methods of HHW disposal

What materials can I expect at an HHW collection?

Based on national data from collection programs, a typical breakdown of HHW is:

- 50% paints and paint products
- 20% used motor oil
- 20% solvents, pesticides, and herbicides
- 10% batteries, unidentified materials and other miscellaneous items, such as old chemistry sets, photographic materials, and fiberglass epoxy

Public Education Component:

The greater your public education efforts, the more demand you are likely to see for HHW collection services. You can use many forms of media for public education. There are some programs and materials already developed that you may wish to use, from NCTCOG, www.Earth911.com, or the Environmental Protection Agency's website.

How much will HHW collection cost?

To get a better idea of the potential costs for your own community, you can work with an HHW disposal contractor who can help you estimate costs.

Collection Methods

There are several possible methods for HHW collection:

One-Day Collection Events - One day collection events are the most common approach. The planning and operation of a one-day collection event involves the setting of a date for collection, advertising the service to the public, and then conducting the program. The number of sites and length of program can vary. One-day events are typically held once per year, in the spring or fall (when weather conditions are best). The one site/one time period approach is most applicable to smaller communities and requires less capital investment.

Permanent Collection Sites - Permanent collection sites increase the participation of a collection program by increasing convenience. Permanent collection sites are typically open a few days per week and generally have higher operation costs than one-day collection events, but have reduced per capita disposal rates.

Mobile Collection Units - Mobile collection units can provide ongoing, year-round collection of HHW. Mobile units operate on a fixed, predictable schedule.

Curbside Collection - Curbside collection of HHW may also be utilized. This type of collection is typically operated in conjunction with curbside recycling programs. While participation levels are high, curbside collection is costly and requires specially trained personnel and specialized equipment. The types of materials collected in curbside programs are limited compared to other types of collection.

Information Needed Prior to Event Planning:

It is mandatory that contact be made with the TCEQ's HHW Management Program. Please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at either (512) 239-3143 or recycle@tceq.texas.gov. (Your disposal contractor may be able to assist you with your TCEQ reporting requirements.)

For more information contact:

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