

## FREON REMOVAL



Under the Clean Air Act of 1990, no one may accept an item containing coolant for recycling or disposal unless the Freon is properly removed. Fees may be charged for all options:

- If you purchase a new appliance, the retailer may take back the old one and remove the Freon.
- Your energy supplier may “buy” back a working appliance and credit your account or send you payment
- Some haulers provide special pickups
- Appliance service centers, certified HVAC technicians or plumbers may provide Freon removal services and can provide a certification of removal. You can then take the appliance to a scrap yard for recycling.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



**REDUCE:** Reduce your use of hazardous waste materials as much as possible. Use environmentally friendly alternatives.

- Buy what you need
- Donate or give access materials to neighbors, local non-profits and community groups.

### DISPOSE of SAFELY:

Dispose of empty containers in the trash.  
Dispose of hardened materials like asphalt sealer, etc. in the trash.

## OTHER ITEMS

For more information on

- recycling
- composting
- alternative cleaning materials

Visit: [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org)

## UNIVERSAL WASTE RECYCLING

Universal wastes are a type of hazardous waste that contains heavy metals and may cause harm if released into the environment.

**DO NOT PLACE UNIVERSAL WASTES IN THE TRASH OR IN RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

### Universal waste includes:

**Consumer Batteries** - lead acid, lithium, nickel cadmium (NiCad), nickel metal hydride (NiMH) and mercury.

**Electronics** – phones, monitors, printers, computer parts, laptops, game consoles, cameras, DVD/VHS players, and other portable electronics.

**Light Tubes and Bulbs** - fluorescent, high intensity discharge, metal halide, mercury vapor, neon, and sodium light bulbs (excludes incandescent bulbs which can be disposed in the trash).

**Mercury Containing Items** -thermometers, thermostats, monometers, certain switches and gauges.

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## Residential Guide to

# Special Waste Disposal

*in Northampton County*



Special waste is a waste that requires special handling, trained people, and/or special disposal methods. A waste may be a special waste because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or biological characteristics.



**Northampton County**  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Services

# GUIDE TO SPECIAL WASTE DISPOSAL

This brochure provides information on properly disposing of special waste items in Northampton County. Your hauler may be more particular about what they will and will not take and how it must be prepared.

*This information pertains to household quantities only.*

## PREVENTION

Preventing waste in the first place is the best, least expensive method of disposal. For all waste items, it is recommended you follow disposal options in this order:

**REDUCE**  
**REUSE**  
**RECYCLE**  
**DISPOSE of SAFELY**



## AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

### ANTIFREEZE



**RECYCLE:** Take your used antifreeze to one of the automotive centers that accepts used antifreeze from the public for recycling. Visit [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org) for a list of some locations near you.

### CAR BATTERIES



**RECYCLE:** Stores are required to accept your old battery when you buy a new one. Scrap dealers and automotive centers also accept car batteries from the public for recycling. Visit [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org) for a list of some locations near you.

### USED MOTOR OIL



**RECYCLE:** Take your used motor oil to one of the many automotive centers that accept used motor oil from the public. Visit [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org) for a list of some locations. Don't store the oil for more than a month, since moisture makes the oil difficult to recycle. Do not mix your used oil with any other substances like gasoline or water.

### TIRES



Fees apply for tire disposal options.

**RECYCLE:** Trade in your old tires when you buy new ones or take tires to an automotive station which accepts tires from the public. Contact your municipality for any special collections.

## HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES



**REDUCE & REUSE:** Consider using rechargeable batteries or electrical hook-ups whenever possible.

**RECYCLE:** Many jewelry stores accept small button batteries (from watches, calculators, hearing aides) for recycling. Visit [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org) for a list of locations for battery recycling.

**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** In small quantities, Alkaline batteries are safe to dispose of in household trash.

## SHARPS



**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** Loose Needles and Lancets - "SHARPS" cannot be put in the trash, recycling bin or flushed down the toilet. Please put them in a sealed container such as a heavy-duty plastic or metal container with a marked, tight-fitting lid or an FDA - approved Sharps Disposal container, and place in the center of your trash bag.

## LARGE APPLIANCES & BULKY ITEMS



**REDUCE & REUSE:** Donate usable appliances to re-use/ second hand agencies such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.

**RECYCLE:** Metal appliances can be recycled at scrap yards. Most scrapyards require Freon removal from refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.

**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** Your hauler or municipality may collect bulky items upon request or designated collection dates. If your hauler does not offer this, contact your municipality to see if your local recycling drop-off center will accept. Programmable appliances must be recycled. If nonprogrammable, it can be recycled or placed in trash.

## BULBS



**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** All lamps and bulbs other than incandescent bulbs require proper disposal. These items contain mercury and other heavy metals that can be harmful to people and the environment. If bulbs are broken, burned or landfilled, metals and other toxic substances can be released into the environment. This risk makes it important to properly dispose of light bulbs.



## PAINT

**REDUCE:** Buy what you need. Unopened cans may be exchangeable, contact place of purchase.

**REUSE:** Use leftovers for second coats, touch-ups, painting outdoors, arts and crafts and DIY projects, OR donate leftovers to community groups, schools, recreation groups, etc.

**RECYCLE:** Old latex paints can be blended together to produce beige or gray. Mix different latex paints together, use for the purposes above.

**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** What cannot be reused can be solidified and thrown out as trash as follows:

### LATEX PAINTS

Latex paints are water-based and are a safer substitute for oil-based paints. They may be solidified (harden) or absorbed, and then placed in the trash. Take the top off the paint can, place it outside safely away from pets and children, allow it to harden. If the can is full, absorb the material with clay-based kitty litter, sawdust, shredded newspaper, etc. Containers with no liquid paint may be placed in the trash.

### OIL-BASED PAINTS

Mix with an absorbent like clay-based kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded newspaper. Small quantities may be mixed in the can; larger quantities can be mixed in a box lined with a plastic bag. Stir with a stick until all the paint is absorbed. Seal the solidified paint and can, absorbent, sticks, box, etc., in a plastic bag and dispose of with trash. Mix outside, away from children and pets. Use gloves, protect face.

## SMOKE DETECTORS



**DISPOSE of SAFELY:** Most smoke detectors contain a small amount of Americium 241, a radioactive material.

On the wall, a smoke detector is safe but if broken open in a landfill, it can pose a health threat. All detectors that contain radioactive components must be labeled accordingly.

Companies that manufacture detectors accept expired units.

A list of manufacturers is available by visiting [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org).