

2019 Spring Newsletter

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Tinmouth, Middletown Springs, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, and West Haven

Identifying & Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.



You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **“Warning!”** **“Danger!”** **“Poison!”** **“Caution!”** Such products include certain paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides.

Household hazardous wastes should not be disposed of improperly by pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash.

The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers, contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment system, pollute bodies of water, present hazards to children and pets, and contaminate ground and surface water.

VT Environmental Producer Responsibility Legislation

Vermont has environmental producer responsibility legislation requiring manufacturers to be responsible for the proper disposal of their products, thus reducing the disposal costs for towns. These products can be disposed of year round, free of charge, at the locations listed below.

These products include:

- Fluorescent Bulbs: VT residents can dispose of mercury-containing bulbs at collection sites throughout the state. To find locations, visit <http://www.lamprecycle.org/state-localaws/>
- Batteries: visit <https://www.call2recycle.org/vermont/> for collection locations
- Architectural Paint: visit <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/laws-regulations/paint-product-stewardship-legislation-act-58/> for collection locations
- Electronics: Electronics can be dropped off with manufacturers or visit <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/> for collection locations

These items can be dropped off year-round and do not need to be saved for HHW events.

HHW events are hosted by local towns and are an expensive endeavor. Reducing the amount of HHW products purchased and using the methods above, will help reduce the cost to your towns.

HHW Event Schedule

SWAC contracts EnPro Services of Vermont for HHW collection events. Any SWAC resident can take their HHW to any of the collection events listed. Used Waste Oil will be accepted at the Rutland and Fair Haven designated collection areas during the events. Several local businesses also accept it for free year-round. Please do not give your waste oil to the HHW contractor. [Click](#) for more information.

Saturday, April 13, 2019

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Road Extension

Saturday, May 11, 2019

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Fair Haven Transfer Station, Fair Haven Ave off West St.

Saturday, October 12, 2019

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Road Extension

Saturday, September 14, 2019

TIME: 9:00-1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Dorset School

SWAC residents may also purchase a non-district permit at the HHW Depot or Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) offices at 1 Smith Rd., Rutland, Vermont, to utilize the RCSWD facility. This permit allows drop off of HHW, trash and tires at current rates, and recycling.

Less Toxic Cleaning Alternatives

Many commercial cleaners contain substances that are toxic and can burn skin or eyes on contact. Without proper ventilation, their use can also cause injury from harmful fumes. There are over exposures to household cleaners every year in the United States, some fatal.



Thoughtless disposal of hazardous products can have harmful impacts on people and the environment. Disposal in trash, or pouring them down the drain, can disrupt wastewater systems, seriously injure waste handlers, and contaminate drinking water.

Here are some non-toxic cleaning recipes for a safer home and cleaner environment. Non-toxic cleaners are cleaners that you can use relatively safely, as compared to other commercial cleaning products (which range from fairly

safe to extremely dangerous). This does not mean that you can safely eat non-toxic cleaners or spray them in your eyes. Always label your home-made cleaners and keep them out of the reach of children.

These recipes generally work just as well as commercial cleaners and are less expensive. With the use of essential oils, non-toxic cleaners can smell more pleasant than commercial cleaners.

In an effort to provide less toxic cleaning alternatives, we have gathered a list of DIY recipes. Find more recipes at: <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/green-living/less-toxic-alternatives/>

All Purpose Cleaner

- 2 tblsp vinegar
- 1 tsp borax or washing soda
- 2 cups hot water
- 1/4 cup liquid soap

Mix everything but soap in a spray bottle and shake. Add 1/4 cup liquid soap last. Mix gently. Apply and wipe clean. Good for counters, wood work, appliances, etc.

Stain Remover

- Salt & Juice of lemon or lime

Sprinkle surface with salt and squeeze lemon or lime juice over the area. Let sit and rub out. This can even remove rust if allowed to sit a few hours.

TIP: A wet pumice stone can remove tough stains from porcelain or enamel without scratching.

Glass Cleaner

- 1/8 cup vinegar & 1 cup water

Mix ingredients in a spray bottle. Shake and apply. Wipe clean.

Wood Furniture Polish

- 3/4 cup olive or mineral oil
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon oil (optional)

Mix thoroughly in a squirt bottle. Shake well and squirt on furniture or rag and rub into wood.

Low Waste Event Planning Tips

Think back to the last time you cleaned up after a party. How many trash bags did you toss out? Most of us probably don't give much thought to what is thrown away, but in the U.S. we throw away 500 million plastic straws and 50 billion water bottles annually - every minute 1 million disposable cups are thrown into the trash. For more tips on waste-free event planning, visit <http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org/event-planning/>

1. Use reusable or compostable (commonly made out of sugar fibers or vegetable starch) dishware, cutlery, glassware, linens and napkins, instead of disposable items
2. Avoid food served in plastic and styrafoam containers. Encourage guests to bring reusable containers for leftovers.
3. Avoid plastic water bottles and drink bottles, use glass pitchers on each table for guests to help themselves
4. Provide recycling and food waste containers next to trash cans
5. Use reusable decorations or natural (plant) decorations

Universal Recycling Law Update

In 2012, the Vermont Legislature unanimously passed the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148), which effectively bans disposal of three major types of waste materials commonly found in Vermonters' trash bins over the course of six years. In 2018, they amended the law (S.285).

- July 1, 2017 - All Transfer stations required to collect food scraps, Food waste generators generating over 18 tons of food waste (~1,300 meals/week) must divert food waste if there is a facility **within 20** miles.
- July 1, 2020 - **All residents and businesses are required to divert food waste regardless of location or composting facility.**

Diverting food waste to local farms and food rescues are great options for diverting food waste from the landfill.



Bio-Solids

When the wastewater flushed from your toilet, drained from your household sinks, washing machine, or dishwasher leaves your home, it flows into your septic system or your community's wastewater treatment facility.

When septic tanks are pumped out, the waste may be disposed of through land application (spreading any chemicals or heavy metals that are in the waste onto the fields as well), taken to the local wastewater treatment facility, or taken to a solid waste incinerator for disposal. Your home may be connected to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater from homes, along with the wastewater from some septic haulers, businesses, industries and other facilities, is treated to reduce or remove pollutants. Wastewater treatment plants incorporate a series of processes to try to remove pollutants from water used in homes, small businesses, industries, and other facilities.

Wastewater treatment facilities are designed to treat organic materials, not hazardous chemicals. If you pour chemical down the drain they may end up in your local rivers, streams or lakes or spread on land.

FLUSH RESPONSIBLY! Don't pour household products down the drain.

New Composting Facility

There is a new composting facility at 160 Wyman Road in Brandon, VT. Businesses above the food waste generation threshold (**18 tons**) within **20 road miles** of this facility **must now divert** food waste.

Commercial Food Waste Haulers

Casella is accepting clients for food waste collection: (800) 227-3552

TAM is currently providing food waste collection: (802) 779-8782

Tracy Wyman is available for most towns: (802) 247-5748

Grow Compost available for pickup in Killington: (802) 595-2333

Food Waste Reduction

1. Write a list and stick to it
2. Keep a healthy fridge
3. Repurpose when possible
4. Use up leftovers
5. Rotate food to use older food first
6. Serve smaller amounts
7. Buy only what you need
8. Freeze breads or leftovers
9. Compost: Difficult to compost? Check out <http://www.nofoodwaste.com>

When do I separate food scraps?

Businesses generating over 18 tons of food waste per year (3 totes or ~1,300/meal per week) are **now required** to divert food waste because of the processing facility (Wyman) within 20 miles.

As of July 1, 2020, all residents and businesses will be required to divert food scraps.

All SWAC town transfer stations currently accept food waste on-site.



Business Outreach

SWAC and RCSWD have joined in a business outreach project to help provide businesses with information on Act 148 regulations. Your lucky business may be receiving a call!

Ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Visit our pinterest page for more great ideas and ways to creatively reuse items. http://www.pinterest.com/s_waste

**This Newsletter is available in full color
with active weblinks on our website:
<http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org>**

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