

# 2022 Spring Newsletter

## Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

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

### VT Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation

Vermont's EPR laws require 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 and do not need to be saved for HHW events.

**Fluorescent Bulbs:** VT residents can dispose of mercury containing bulbs at collection sites.

<https://bit.ly/3vaMEVD>

**Batteries:** <https://bit.ly/3tbtrRA>

**Architectural Paint:**  
[paintcare.org](http://paintcare.org)

**Electronics and Computers:**  
<https://bit.ly/3cnbNDJ>

**Mercury Thermostats:** to find a drop off location visit  
<https://bit.ly/38yeKAa>

### Options for Other Items:

**Propane Tanks:** recommend a swap out at your local retailer. Empty tanks can be taken to a HHW event.

**Tires:** return to local retailers and some transfer stations for a disposal fee.

**Large Appliances:** drop off at Hubbard Brothers, some local transfer stations. Fees may apply.

**Used Waste Oil:** Used motor oil is accepted at many local retailers in the area. Used oil filters are accepted at all HHW Events.

**Prescription Drug Takeback:**  
The Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) sponsors a free national Drug Take-Back day. For additional information, and to find a location near you, visit.  
<https://takebackday.dea.gov>

### SWAC's Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

All solid waste management entities in Vermont are required to have a SWIP. The SWIP is a comprehensive planning document meeting the State's standards for hazardous and solid waste. SWAC's SWIP is available on the website - <https://rb.gy/dbvgjg>. The SWIP acts as a five-year planning document for SWAC and acts as a work plan.

### Business Outreach

SWAC and RCSWD have joined in a business outreach effort to assist local businesses with meeting their requirements for solid and hazardous waste under state law. Your lucky business may be receiving a visit or telephone call!

Please contact us with any inquiries you may have in the meantime. We are here to help.

Have a success story to share? We'd love to share your business success on our Facebook page.

### Food Waste BANNED FROM VERMONT LANDFILLS

As of July 1, 2020, all residents and businesses are required to divert food waste from the landfill.

Food waste is one of the largest components of solid waste in U.S. landfills. Currently, 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally.

That's not the worst part. Food in the landfill does not break down or biodegrade due to lack of oxygen. It contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and wastes the water and other resources it takes to grow the food. Visit <https://rb.gy/8uttli> for food waste reduction tips.

### So, what you should you do with your food waste?

All SWAC transfer stations offer food waste collection on-site. Contact your local transfer station for specifics.

Backyard composting is a great option. For ideas, check out <http://scrapfoodwaste.org/>

Many local and online retailers offer backyard composters and collection containers.

Want to build your own composter? Check out these DIY projects on our pinterst site at [www.pinterest.com/solidwastealliance-communities/build-your-own-com-post-bin/](http://www.pinterest.com/solidwastealliance-communities/build-your-own-com-post-bin/)

## The True Cost of Household Hazardous Waste

Many of the products we use in our homes today can be harmful to our health and the planet. Direct contact with or inhaling these chemicals, which are often labeled with words like “danger,” “warning,” or “caution,” can lead to health problems such as irritation of the skin, eyes, or throat, headaches, and even cancer. These chemicals can also have a profound impact on the environment and are classified as household hazardous waste.

Household hazardous waste disposal costs continue to increase. In fact, we are anticipating an increase in the disposal cost of over 50% in the next year.

Towns are directly responsible for paying for the disposal of household hazardous waste responsibly.

Knowing this, disposing of household hazardous waste at a HHW event should be the last resort. Making environmentally responsible purchasing decisions can make a big impact in your community.

Here are a few ways you can make environmentally responsible purchases and help your town reduce disposal costs.

### Use What You Purchase

If you need to purchase a household cleaner or drain cleaner, make sure to use it all.

### Purchase Alternative Products

There are many natural cleaning product alternatives available at your grocery store or online. These cleaning alternatives are not classified as household hazardous waste. They are better for the environment and less toxic.

Not sure what alternative cleaners to pick? Check out our [website](#) for more information on less-toxic cleaning options.



### Buy Only What You Need

Don't stock up on household hazardous waste products. These cleaners have a shelf life and will “go bad”. Purchasing the amount you need for the designated purpose rather than keeping these items on hand is an easy way to reduce waste.

### Simplify

Use multi-purpose cleaners rather than having a full collection of specialized products.

### Give It Away

Consider giving the usable, leftover products to a neighbor, community center, or church that can use it up if you cannot. It is much better to use up the product instead of disposing of it.

Use these tips to help reduce the cost to your town and the long-term effects on the environment.

Still have questions about household hazardous waste?

Visit [www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org) to learn how you can make a positive impact on the environment.

## Business Assistance Services

Vermont businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. We know it can be difficult to figure out where to get support for your business. Here is a list of some local resources for Vermont businesses.

- Small Business Grants: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/12/15/lawmakers-earmark-13-2-million-more-to-small-business-grants/>
- Support for Micro Businesses: <https://mbdp.org/>
- Support for Farmers and Agricultural Workers: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agency-agriculture-food-markets-news/covid-19-relief-grants-now-available-agriculture-and-working>
- Small Business Grants: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/07/01/vermont-lays-out-criteria-for-small-business-grants-portals-open-july-6/>



## Household Hazardous Waste Alternatives

Instead of this:	You can use this:
Household Cleaner	Combine 1 tsp liquid soap, 1 tsp borax, 1 squeeze of lemon, and 1 qt warm water.
Ant Killer	Combine equal parts borax and sugar. Sprinkle around nest.
Disinfectant	Combine 1/4 cup baking soda with 1/2 gallon hot water.
Drain Cleaner	Pour 1/2 cup baking soda in drain followed by 2 cups boiling water.
Toilet Cleaner	Pour 1/4 cup baking soda into bowl and drizzle with vinegar. Let sit for 1/2 hour. Scrub and flush.
Mildew Remover	Dissolve 1/2 cup vinegar with 1/2 cup borax in warm water.
Carpet Cleaner	Sprinkle cornstarch or baking soda on dry rug and vacuum.
Furniture Polish	Mix two parts olive/vegetable oil to one part lemon juice. Apply mixture and let stand for several hours. Polish with dry, soft cloth.
Silver Polish	Soak items in 1 qt warm water mixed with 1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp salt and a small piece of aluminium foil.

## HHW Event Schedule

SWAC contracts U.S. Ecology 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 give your waste oil to transfer station attendant. For more information please visit, [www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org).

### Saturday, April 30, 2022

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

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Rd. Extension

### Saturday, October 8, 2022

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

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

If you live outside of a SWAC town, please visit [www.rcswd.com](http://www.rcswd.com) for more information.

SWAC residents may also purchase a non-district permit to utilize the Rutland County Solid Waste (RCSWD) Gleason Road facility and drop off household hazardous waste and trash at current rates, and access to recycling drop-offs. For more information, visit: [www.rcswd.com](http://www.rcswd.com).

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

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

---

DUE TO COVID-19, HAZARDOUS WASTE DATES  
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION.  
PLEASE VISIT THE SWAC WEBSITE FOR  
UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

### 2022 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

John Garrison, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Clapp, Administrator

---

**Solid Waste Alliance Communities**  
**[solidwastealliancecommunities@gmail.com](mailto:solidwastealliancecommunities@gmail.com)**