

# 2024 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.

These products can be disposed of year round, free of charge, at the locations listed below.

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

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

**Lithium Batteries:**

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

**Architectural Paint:**

<https://www.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:** 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.

**Appliances (refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers, etc.):**

Check with your local transfer station and scrap metal dealers for options.

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

**Prescription Drug Takeback:**

The Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) sponsors a free national Drug Take-Back day. Some police departments provide year-round collection boxes.

For more 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 (SWME) in Vermont are required to have a SWIP. This acts as a work plan for the SWMEs. SWAC will be rewriting it's SWIP in 2025 and will be seeking public comments. Please watch for updates. SWAC's Current SWIP: <https://rb.gy/dbvgjq>.

### Business & School Outreach

SWAC's business outreach assists local businesses and schools with meeting their requirements for solid and hazardous waste under state law.

As a reminder, all schools in Vermont are considered Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) and should have an EPA ID number assigned to them. The link below has more about this requirement and provides a link to necessary forms: <https://rb.gy/2do32q>

### HHW Environmental Producer Responsibility Act Passed

Signed in June 2023, Act 58 will require manufacturers of some hazardous waste to contribute to the costs for managing these wastes at their end-of-life. Covered products include:

- Aerosols
- Automotive products
- Fire extinguishers
- Flammable decreasers, lubricants, liquid adhesives
- Furniture strippers
- Glues and adhesives
- Grout cleaners
- Non-Bleach Hazardous cleaners
- Lamp kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Marine, Auto, Traffic, and Road Paints
- Paint thinners, solvents, and removers
- Rust remover
- Tar and bug remover
- Gas cylinders
- Small propane up to one pound

For more information visit:

<https://rb.gy/flb470>

**For now**, small businesses, which may include town offices, garages, and schools may pre-register to dispose of HW at the SWAC hazardous waste collection events. SWAC will need a detailed breakdown of materials to be dropped off. A quote will be given by the HW contractor. Payment is due at time of drop off. Contact us for more information.

## How does Act 58 affect you?

Act 58 will help reduce costs to municipalities for disposal of HHW. For more than 30 years, state law has required municipalities to offer collection of HHW and the costs have grown significantly for the municipalities.

This law requires manufacturers to help fund this collection system and to offer public education including source reduction information for consumers.

## Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Tips

Lithium ion batteries are in most every electronic device you own. A rechargeable game controller, smartphone, electric vehicle, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches all have them. They're just as common in a workplace with employees carrying around phones, laptops, pagers, tablets, etc.

Despite the safety of lithium-ion batteries, they can become hazardous in certain situations. If they've been damaged or have some kind of defect, they can cause devastating fires. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that there were more than 25,000 issues involving fires or overheating stemming from lithium-ion batteries in a five-year period.

## Did You Know?

Battery fire incidents are more common because lithium batteries are in many consumer products.

Devices have increased hazards during charging and larger capacity batteries have a higher fire risk.

Fires involving Lithium-ion batteries are fast, intensive, difficult to contain or extinguish, and can produce hazardous fumes and gases.

The batteries can also explode.

Faulty manufacturing, damage, misuse and aging of batteries can also increase the risk of battery fires. Advice on safe handling of lithium-ion batteries is available here:

<https://rb.gy/deiylk>



**Never throw batteries in the general trash. They require special disposal. Find a disposal location near you:**  
<https://bit.ly/3tbtrRA>

All Drop-Off Locations accept Alkaline, lithium, silver oxide, zinc-air, zinc-carbon, and zinc-chloride, commonly known as AA, AAA, 9V, D-cell, and button cell are all types of primary batteries.

## What Can You Do?

There are many ways to reduce the risk of fires due to lithium batteries.

- Buy electronic devices from reputable retailers and use compatible batteries and chargers.
- If a fire occurs, unplug the battery if it can be done safely. Then evacuate the area and call 911. **DO NOT TRY TO PUT OUT THE FIRE YOURSELF.**
- Batteries should also be routinely inspected to make sure there is no cracking, bulging or leaking.
- Charging lithium-ion batteries creates heat. Do it on a solid surface and monitor. Unplug the device once fully charged.
- If you use battery-powered vehicles never park near flammable materials.
- Batteries should be contained and monitored after a fire. They can easily reignite.

## Single-Use Products Law

Vermont created Act 69 to lessen the harmful effects of single-use products and to reduce the amount of single use products Vermonters landfill. Single-use items, paper, and packaging make up almost 1/3 of Vermont's trash. Certain single-use products, including plastic and paper bags, straws, takeout containers and coffee stirrers, are only available in certain locations.

What can you do to help?

- Bring your own reusable: Bags, Straws, Travel mug and refillable water bottles, and Containers for leftovers.
- Consider working with your local community to set up a leave a bag, take a bag program.
- Consider eating in instead of getting take-out.



## What Happens to Waste and Recycling?

Vermont law bans certain items and materials from disposal in the trash, requiring recycling, composting, or other safe management options. However, there is no single recycling pathway, because every material has its own story.

**Recycling**, including glass bottles and jars; plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs; office paper/paper mail; cardboard; and steel and aluminum cans, goes to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). At the MRFs, materials are separated by type. After sorting, individual material types are compressed into bales, which are sold to processors. Glass is separated into piles and sometimes ground to a fine sand-like texture. Some recyclables are contaminated and discarded, but contrary to what you may have heard, about 90% of what is brought in for recycling goes out to be recycled.

**Leaf and yard debris** are often brought to transfer stations. Natural and clean wood like logs, limbs, branches, and lumber are sometimes repurposed, chipped, burned in heating and power plants, or openly burned at burn permit sites.

**Food scraps** are typically taken to transfer stations, composting facilities, fed to animals, or composted in backyard composters.

Quality, edible food is frequently donated to the Vermont Foodbank and a network of food shelves to feed people in need. If you would like to donate, visit: <https://rb.gy/7n2yjd>

There are more than a dozen compost facilities located throughout Vermont, where compost specialists mix food scraps with carbon sources, such as leaves and wood chips, to create an ideal environment for the microorganisms that break down the material.

**Household hazardous waste** (HHW) is collected at special events. If not handled, stored, and disposed of carefully, the materials can be dangerous. Certain chemicals, such as alkaline cleaners and pesticides, are treated and disposed of at out-of-state hazardous waste landfills. Other types of hazardous materials are incinerated at special HHW incinerators and the ash is disposed in hazardous waste landfills.

**Most trash** produced in Vermont ends up at the New England Waste Services Vermont landfill (NEWS VT), in Coventry, and some goes to landfills and incinerators in other states, like New York and New Hampshire.

## HHW Event Schedule

SWAC contracts Republic formerly 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.

Please give your waste oil to transfer station attendant.

For more information please visit, [www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org).

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

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

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

**Saturday, October 5, 2024**

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).

These HHW events are hosted by SWAC towns and are expensive endeavors. Reducing the amount of HHW products purchased, giving them away to someone who can use them, or use them for their intended purpose 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>**

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HAZARDOUS WASTE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE/CANCELLATION. PLEASE VISIT THE  
SWAC WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST  
INFORMATION.

#### 2024 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

John Garrison, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Clapp, Administrator

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