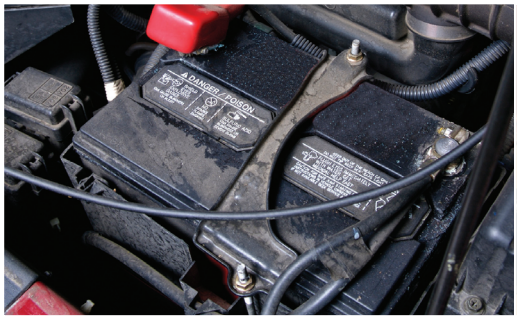
DON'T JUST SPRING CLEAN ...

SPRING GREEN!

It's spring . . . time for all things green, time for cleaning house and getting rid of unwanted waste. This spring, the DC Department of Public Works reminds you to think green by safely disposing of unwanted household hazardous waste (HHW), like oil-based paint, pesticides, and batteries. Don't forget electronic waste such as unwanted televisions and computers.



Why Can't I Throw Household Hazardous Waste in the Trash?

Throwing these materials into the trash or pouring them down the drain or into the sewer will further contaminate the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, pollute the environment, and pose a threat to human health as well as your pet's.

What's the Best Way to Get Rid of Household Hazardous Waste?

Buy only what you need, then use it all. Give leftovers to friends, relatives, neighbors, and community organizations. You also can bring them to DPW's April 26 HHW/E-cycling drop-off event at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre (see details on the reverse side). Keep these products in their original packaging and make sure the containers cannot leak or tip over while in transit.

How Can I Reduce My Household Hazardous Waste?

Choosing products labeled "non-toxic" or using home-made, non-toxic alternatives for household cleaners, bleach, drain openers, mothballs, and insecticides can go a long way toward eliminating toxic waste in your household. Go to www.dpw.dc.gov for these alternatives and more recycling tips, or call the Recycling Hotline at 202.645.8245. For DPW services, call 311 or 202.727.1000.

What Can I Do with These Items if I Don't Bring Them to the April 26 HHW Event or Donate Them to Charity?

- **Motor oil and antifreeze:** They can be recycled, free of charge, at some auto parts stores and service stations, which also may accept **used car batteries.**
- **Paint:** Air-dry latex paint (use kitty litter to speed the process), double-wrap the container in newspaper, bag it, and put in the trash. Store oil-based paint until the HHW drop-off event.
- **Computers, cell phones, and other electronics:** Recycle these items through certain office supply stores or electronics retailers, which may charge a fee.
- **Fluorescent tubes and Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs):** Check with local hardware stores, which may accept them free of charge. To learn more about CFLs and what to do if one breaks, visit www.epa.gov and type "CFLs" in the search box.

For more information on which local retailers may recycle your products, visit www.dpw.dc.gov.

Reminder: April 16, 2008 is Emancipation Day. Trash and recycling collections "SLIDE" to the next day for the rest of the week.

Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor