

Household Hazardous Waste

City of Ruston held its first household hazardous waste collection day (HHW Day) for City residents in May of 2002. City employees saw approximately 100 cars come through for a total of 3,100 pounds of waste. This waste included 375 tires, 600 gallons of used oil, 300 gallon of paint, 59 car batteries and 18 old computers. In 2005, Lincoln Parish Police Jury teamed up with the City therefore making the event parish wide. This event is for Lincoln Parish residents only with no commercial or business waste accepted.

Please click on the following link to see a brochure of what products to bring to the HHW Day, May 19, 2007. (insert brochure link here)

There are some products that can be recycled year round at Trailblazer located in the parking lot of the Boys and Girls Club at 300 Memorial Drive in Ruston such as:

- office paper
- newspaper
- telephone books
- aluminum cans
- ink cartridges
- cell phones
- laser cartridges

Some other places in Ruston that will take items for recycling are:

- Office Depot – ink cartridges
- Radio Shack – batteries
- Lowe's – large cordless tool batteries

Almost every home contains hazardous products, or products that can harm human health or the environment if handled improperly. Household products that are labeled as flammable, corrosive, toxic, or reactive are considered household hazardous waste. In the 1980's many communities started special collection days or permanent collection sites for handling household hazardous waste (HHW). By 1997, there were more than 3000 HHW permanent programs and collections events throughout the United States.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of HHW per year. An average home accumulates 100pounds of HHW per year. The most common HHW found in our homes:

- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Cleaners
- Fertilizers
- Used oil and oil filters
- Paints
- resins (glue)
- solvents (paint thinners)
- poisons (pesticides, weed killers)
- batteries (automobile, alkaline, or nicad)

The benefits of proper disposal of HHW:

- reduction and recycling of HHW conserves resources and energy that would be expended in the production of more products
- reuse of HHW products can save money and reduce the need for generating hazardous substances
- proper disposal prevents pollution that could endanger human health and the environment

If HHW is not disposed of properly, it can get into our water sources and cause contamination as well as injure firefighters and sewer personnel by poisonous fumes and explosions.