

Safe Home—Healthy Home



We are exposed to harmful chemicals in many ways—including products we use to clean our homes or maintain our gardens. Only a small portion of the more than 80,000 chemicals registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been thoroughly tested for human health concerns. Many common chemicals found in our homes can have immediate toxic effects on adults, children, and pets if not used properly. Others may have long-term health effects after repeated exposure. Particles from detergents, cosmetics, pesticides, and other chemicals are found in the dust in our homes, potentially contributing to asthma.

We can make our homes safer by changing our purchasing habits, adopting some minor changes to the way we clean our homes or care for our lawns and gardens, and through proper storage, use, and disposal of household chemicals. When considering a chemical product, ask yourself if something else you already have will do the job. There are a wide variety of nontoxic or low-toxic products available. Common household items such as baking soda, vinegar, and plant-based soaps and detergents can often clean just as well as specialty cleaners.



Mercury-containing products such as thermometers, thermostats, compact fluorescent bulbs, and batteries should never be disposed of in the trash. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) must be recycled properly and are accepted at all District transfer stations, Aubuchon Hardware and Home Depot. Additionally, mercury-containing items are accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Day and the Regional Hazardous Waste Collection Sites in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway.

Rechargeable and button batteries are another common item that should not be thrown in the trash. Batteries burned in waste combustion facilities or buried in landfills can release mercury, cadmium or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Proper disposal of batteries and cell phones is free at all District transfer stations; simply hand batteries to your transfer station attendant. Towns that do not have transfer stations have collection boxes at town hall.

For information on alternatives to chemical products, and information about proper disposal of hazardous chemicals, mercury and sharps (needles), call (413) 772-2438 or visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Household Hazardous Waste Day Registration - **Due by Sept. 16th**

Please fill out this form completely and mail to:
FCSWMD, 50 Miles St., Greenfield MA 01301

Resident name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Town of residence: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Specify type and quantity of waste
Ex: 2 gallons gas, 5 lbs. pesticides
Please be specific!
