

## Directions to the Central Landfill

### Location

65 Shun Pike, Johnston, Rhode Island

### From Providence

Take Rte. 6 West to 295 South. Take Exit 4/ Plainfield Pike, follow for 1.5 miles to Green Hill Road. Turn right, follow approx. 1 mile to Central Landfill Complex.\*

### From 95 South (and all points north)

Take 95 South to Exit 14/Rte. 37 West to 295 North. Go about 5 miles to Exit 4 /Plainfield Pike. Turn left at end of exit onto Plainfield Pike, follow for 1.5 miles to Green Hill Road. Turn right, follow approx. 1 mile to Central Landfill Complex.\*

### From 95 North (and all points south)

Take 95 North to 295 North. Take Exit 4/Plainfield Pike. Take left at the light and follow for 1.5 miles to Green Hill Road. Turn right, follow approx. 1 mile to Central Landfill Complex.\*

### \*At Central Landfill Complex

Turn into entrance, pass guard house and follow road to the scale house. The attendant will direct you to the ECO-DEPOT.



R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation  
65 Shun Pike, Johnston, RI 02919  
Phone: 401-942-1430 x775  
Fax: 401-946-5174  
Website: [www.rirrc.org](http://www.rirrc.org)

The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) is a non-profit, quasi-public agency that was created by the General Assembly in 1974 to serve the solid waste management needs of the state. RIRRC is dedicated to reducing reliance on landfilling through resource conservation programs such as waste reduction, recycling and composting.



## A Safer Home, A Cleaner State



## What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Most homes have a fair number of products stored in the garage, basement, shed, bathroom and kitchen that contain hazardous chemicals. The leftover and unused contents of these products are known as “household hazardous waste.”

Hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, can easily catch on fire or can react or explode when mixed with other substances. Read the labels. If you see the words, “caution,” “hazardous,” “danger,” “flammable,” or “poison,” you need to use these products with extreme care. Just as they require special care when you use them, they require special care when you throw them away. If you don’t, you may cause serious injury to yourself, your loved ones, and pets. And when you don’t dispose of them properly, you could pollute the environment by poisoning the sewer and septic systems, drinking water, groundwater, and the earth.



Improperly discarded household hazardous wastes pose a threat to sanitation workers because the products can ignite or explode in the garbage trucks, and trash handlers have been injured by fumes and splashing chemicals.

## “But I Didn’t Mean To:.”

A community would be horrified if a vandal were to contaminate the public drinking water supply by adding a poisonous substance to it. But when homeowners dump a can of paint thinner, for example, down a drain or into a storm drain, it is not regarded by others to be dangerous. The opposite is true; the effects on Rhode Island’s water resources are just as disastrous. When hazardous products are poured down the drain, they harm septic systems and can leach into drinking water wells. In neighborhoods equipped with public sewers, they may damage wastewater treatment facilities and degrade the quality of Rhode Island’s shoreline.



Storm drains are a direct route to nearby waterways.

Rainfall moving over and through the ground that has



been contaminated with pesticides, motor oil and other human pollutants transports the pollutants into storm drains and catch basins where it travels to lakes, rivers, wetlands, and beaches.

If you want clean beaches to enjoy and safe water to drink, you must do your part to ensure that you aren't polluting them, even unintentionally.

You may be surprised to learn that most pollution is caused by many small infractions by careless citizens rather than from a single source such as an oil tanker spill. It is a fact that *every year* Americans improperly dispose 192 million gallons of used motor oil into our environment. This is more than 17 times the oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez.

## The Usual Suspects

The average household stores about 10 gallons of common hazardous waste. Check the list below to see if you have any of these items in your home:

- Batteries – automotive and rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries (no alkaline batteries)
- Gasoline
- Oil-based paints
- Fluorescent light bulbs and lamps
- Pool chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Lawn chemicals, fertilizers and weed killers
- Turpentine
- Bug sprays
- Antifreeze
- Paint thinners, strippers, varnishes and stains
- Arts and crafts chemicals
- Charcoal lighter fluid
- Disinfectant
- Drain clog dissolvers
- Driveway sealer
- Flea dips, sprays and collars
- Houseplant insecticides
- Metal polishes
- Mothballs
- Motor oil and filters
- Muriatic acid (concrete cleaner)
- Nail polishes and nail polish removers
- Oven cleaner
- Household pest and rat poisons
- Rug and upholstery cleaners
- Shoe polish
- Windshield wiper fluid

## Free and Safe Disposal

In Rhode Island, you can bring all of your household hazardous waste to the Eco-Depot, a free drop-off at the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's facility at the Central Landfill in Johnston. It's fast and easy. Load the materials, in their original containers and clearly labeled, in your vehicle and fill out the inventory form stating what you are bringing and the quantity. When you arrive at the drop-off, trained personnel will unload the materials and collect your inventory form. You don't even need to get out of your car!

*You must book an appointment to drop off your HHW.* Please call us at 942-1430 x241 to schedule a date and time. This service is for Rhode Island household hazardous waste only.

## Do I Have Choices?

You have several.

If the product is still useable (its shelf life hasn't expired), check with your friends and neighbors to see if they might be able to use it up. It is always preferable to use a product rather than waste it.

Although chemical products are usually safe when used according to label direc-



tions, these products can become dangerous when people are unaware, or forget, that they are handling hazardous prod-

ucts. If you must buy hazardous products, buy only the smallest amount you need. Keep in mind that it is much safer to choose the least toxic products available. It may require a little more muscle on your behalf but you won't have to worry about keeping toxic and dangerous products in your home. This is especially true if you have young children and pets.

There are many non-hazardous substitutes you can choose. Lemon juice, vinegar, hot water, borax, soap, and baking soda are good, safe alternatives for cleaning products. Practicing organic gardening guarantees safe lawns and gardens. Household

spices are great substitutes for pest control products. For detailed recommendations and "recipes," visit our website at [www.rirrc.org](http://www.rirrc.org), or call our recycling hotline at 942-1430 x775.

