

# Disposal and Recycle Tips for Special Waste

What is “Special Waste”? Waste that should not be disposed of in your household garbage, and must be recycled and disposed of through other means; this includes Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

## Automotive

Antifreeze	Oil Filters
Brake Fluid	Transmission Fluid
Motor Oil	Lead Acid Batteries

Motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, and lead acid batteries are often accepted by oil change shops. A fee may apply. Household quantities of these items can be brought to a HHW event.

## Batteries

### Single-Use Batteries

*Alkaline Manganese:* best to recycle, but can be put in garbage.

*Silver Oxide:* Do not throw in garbage; these contain mercury. Watch and hearing aid batteries are common examples. Options for disposal:

- Waste Management’s “Think Green from Home” program: [www.ThinkGreenFromHome.com](http://www.ThinkGreenFromHome.com)
- Bring to HHW disposal event

### Rechargeable Batteries

*Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium Ion, and Nickel-Metal Hydride:* Often used in place of alkaline batteries; includes batteries found in cell phones, cordless power tools, and other cordless electronic devices.

Drop off household quantities of rechargeable batteries at these locations:

- Lowes
- Home Depot
- Radio Shack
- McCoy’s Building Supply

## Cooking Oil

Do **not** put cooking oil, fats, or grease down the drain.

- Small amounts of these liquids are OK in your garbage, but must be solidified and sealed in a rigid container.

- New Braunfels Utilities has a limited number of grease disposal kits available.
- Bring larger volumes of used cooking oil (including oil from deep-frying) to a HHW event.

## Chemicals

*Cleaners, Poisons, Flammable liquids, Solvents, Fertilizers*

Any chemical in your home that is toxic, reactive, ignitable, or corrosive is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Read the labels of the products in your home carefully. If marked toxic, reactive, ignitable, or corrosive, do **not** put in your garbage! Chemicals release toxic fumes and cause fires. Protect our drinking water: store chemicals until you are able to dispose them at a HHW event.

## Electronics

### Computers and Computer Peripherals

By state law, computer manufacturers (not retailers) must take back the computer, monitor, keyboard, and mouse at no charge to the consumer.

Goodwill, through its partnership with Dell, accepts computer accessories (working or not), such as:

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Monitor    | • Cords         |
| • Printer    | • Cables        |
| • Scanner    | • Mouse         |
| • Hard Drive | • Software      |
| • Keyboard   | • Computer      |
| • Speakers   | • Game consoles |

Goodwill also accepts TVs, VCRs, DVD players, cell phones. For complete list, call (210) 924-8581.

Comal County Rural Recycling also accepts electronics. Call (830)643-3781 for more information.

## Freon (Appliances With)

The City cannot accept appliances containing Freon. Freon is a regulated and harmful gaseous coolant – found in refrigerators, air conditioners, water coolers, freezers, etc. – and therefore, a certified technician must remove it. Call to discuss your options:

- Green Guy Recycling (512) 353-3266
- Guada-Coma Mechanical (830) 625-2420
- Comal Iron and Metals (830) 625-4920
- Williams Heating and Air (830) 625-5710

Once the Freon has been removed, the appliance can be dropped-off at the City Recycle Center to be recycled.

## Ink and Toner Cartridges

Several local retailers accept ink and toner cartridges for reuse or recycling.

- Office Depot
- Office Max
- Best Buy
- Cartridge World
- Goodwill
- Target

## Latex Paint

- 5 gallons or more: bring to HHW event
- Less than 5 gallons: Can dry out by mixing with kitty litter to break down and dilute the chemicals before placing in your garbage
- Donate full, reusable cans of latex paint to Habitat for Humanity: (830) 625-7005.

## Medical Wastes

Do **not** flush down the drain.

### Medicine and Prescriptions:

Drop-off at Operation MedSafe event at NBU's Main Plaza location. Call (830) 629-8486 for details.

If you miss the drop-off event, it is OK to place unwanted medications in your garbage, as long as you follow these guidelines:

1. Put pills and syrups into a rigid, plastic container

that has a screw-top (such as a laundry detergent bottle)

2. Add kitty litter, coffee grounds, or other substance that is unpalatable
3. Screw lid on and place in **garbage**

### Needles, Syringes, Lancets (SHARPS):

Ideally, SHARPS should be incinerated. However, it is ok to place SHARPS in the trash if you follow these guidelines:

1. Place SHARPS inside a rigid container that has a screw-top (such as a detergent bottle)
2. Screw lid on and secure with duct tape
3. Mark the container "SHARPS"
4. Place container in **garbage**

Another option for SHARPS is a mail-back program through Stericycle: [www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com).

## Oil-base Paint, Stains, Varnishes and Paint Thinner

No local retail drop-off location; must be disposed of at a HHW event.

## Plastic Bags

Convenient receptacles for plastic bag recycling at Target, HEB, and Wal-mart.

## Light Bulbs

Compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs may be recycled at Home Depot and Lowe's. Other options for light bulb recycling, including fluorescent tubes, can be found at [www.thinkgreenfromhome.com](http://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com), <http://lamprecycle.org/Recyclers.php>, or <http://www.aircycle.com/easypak/>.