

Trash Talk!



THURSTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON

Public Works

Summer 2022



Hazards in Your Home



CAUTION! WARNING! DANGER! POISON! These words are meant to keep people away, yet many people might find these words in their homes on warning labels. Many paints, cleaners, and bug and weed killers contain harmful chemicals and toxins dangerous to humans, other living things, and our air, water, and soil. Unfortunately, these dangerous products sit on the shelves of our storage areas where they can easily be forgotten. These forgotten and unneeded

items are called “Household Hazardous Waste,” or HHW for short. It’s a good idea to look at the shelves in your house and responsibly get rid of what you don’t need.

One way you can help is to ask a grown-up if they’ve thought recently about which products they need and which they don’t. Volunteer to help them make a list of all the hazardous chemicals and products in the house. Mom and Dad will know which products they don’t plan to use anymore, and you can note those items as HHW on your list. There is a safe way to dispose of HHW — Thurston County accepts HHW and will safely recycle or dispose of it at HazoHouse in Lacey. Remember, never pour HHW down the drain or put it in the trash.

You can dispose of your HHW at HazoHouse, located at the Waste and Recovery Center, every day between 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. HazoHouse accepts materials from the public for free, but some limits apply. Accepted HHW includes:

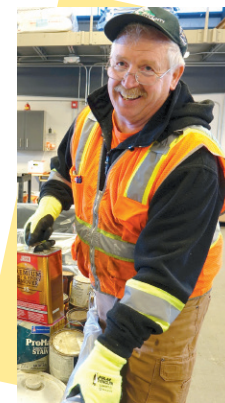
- Oil-based and latex paint
- Motor oil
- Oil filters
- Antifreeze
- Other automotive fluids
- Cleaners and solvents
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers and plant food
- Hobby chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Mercury-containing items
- Car batteries
- Household batteries (non-alkaline)
- Cooking oil
- Kerosene

- Gasoline
- Propane containers

Alkaline batteries are not accepted as HHW, but they can be placed in the regular garbage.

The Rainier and Rochester Drop-box facilities also accept used motor oil, oil filters, and automotive batteries.

To learn more about HHW, your family can call the Solid Waste Info Line at 360-867-2491; visit our website, ThurstonSolidWaste.org, and click on “Hazardous waste disposal”; or check out our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter.



A new program to keep more paint out of the garbage started this year through an organization called PaintCare. When people have leftover cans of paint, they can bring them to a special location that collects old paint for recycling. Customers buying new paint pay a special fee that covers the cost of the program. That means you can drop off your paint for

free! The paint is then remixed into recycled paint, used as a fuel, or properly disposed.

There are lots of kinds of paint out there, so it’s good to know what kind of paint can be recycled. This program recycles latex and oil-based wall paints in cans. Craft paint, automotive paint, spray paint, and other kinds of paint are not accepted in this program. Find the nearest paint drop-off online by visiting PaintCare.org/state/Washington and entering your ZIP code.

Swap Shop

To promote reuse, HazoHouse in Lacey (located at the Waste and Recovery Center) maintains a Swap Shop that is open to Thurston County residents. Certain products that are brought in for disposal in usable condition are placed in the Swap Shop area and can be taken by residents free of charge.

This program is generally limited to paint, household cleaners, and automotive supplies. Every item picked up at the Swap Shop saves residents and the County money and puts these materials to good use in our community. You can turn in chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides, paint greater than 1 gallon, bulbs, and batteries at the HazoHouse, but they can’t be placed in the Swap Shop area.

Please note that available items are constantly changing and can be picked up on a first-come, first-served basis during HazoHouse regular hours of operation. Visit ThurstonSolidWaste.org for details about HazoHouse.



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Donate or dispose of dated devices



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TVs, computers, DVRs, DVD players, game consoles, cell phones, iPads and tablets, and e-readers — do you have any of these electronics at your house? Chances are that your family has several. The average American family has about 24 of these at home. When your family replaces an electronic device, you have a decision to make. What will you do with the old one? Here are our suggestions:

1. Keep your electronics in use for a long time. The longer you use the electronics, the more “mileage” you get from the resources and energy required to make them. There are some very easy ways to keep electronics working longer. Remove dust from fans and air vents, usually found on the back of equipment. Let air circulate around electronics so they don’t overheat. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for recharging batteries.
2. Don’t store equipment that you no longer need or use. If you won’t be using the device again, don’t throw it into a drawer or shove it into the back of a closet and forget about it. Even if you’re done with them, your unwanted electronics could be useful for someone else, especially newer devices.

3. Donate or sell working electronics that are less than five years old. Used cell phones, computers, TVs, and accessories might be just what a new owner needs. Be sure to completely remove all your personal data before donating or selling your equipment. You’ll probably need an adult’s help to remove personal data.
4. Recycle unusable electronics or those that you cannot give away. Nationwide, more than 6.92 million tons of electronics are discarded each year, and less than 20% of that is recycled. Electronics in our landfills can cause pollution to our water, air, and soil. So, when your electronics become electronic waste, or e-waste, don’t put them into the trash. Instead, visit WhereDoITakeMy.org to find several free e-waste drop-off locations throughout Thurston County. Thurston County facilities do not currently offer computer or electronics recycling.

Recycling electronics ensures hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, are safely managed. It also conserves resources, recaptures useful metals, reduces pollution, saves energy, and helps create jobs.

Puzzling Clues

Taylor and her friends bought T-shirts at their neighbor’s garage sale. Each shirt cost a different amount. Use the clues below to figure out how much each shirt cost.



Credit: SDI Productions | E+ | Getty Images

- A. Taylor’s shirt cost three times as much as Landon’s shirt.
- B. Lilly’s shirt cost \$2.50.
- C. Taylor’s shirt cost \$3.50 more than Lilly’s shirt.
- D. Julia’s shirt cost \$1.25 more than Landon’s shirt.
- E. The shirts cost a total of \$13.75.

QUESTIONS:

1. Which clue did you use first? _____
2. Was there any clue that you didn’t need? _____
3. Whose shirt cost the most? _____
4. Whose shirt cost the least? _____
5. How much did Julia’s shirt cost? _____

Supplying the Demand

In economics (the study of buying and selling things), there is a connection between supply and demand. Supply is how much of an item is available to sell. Demand is how much people want to buy that item. The price of an item is often linked to the supply of it and demand for it.

Look at the examples below to think about how and why supply and demand can be related to each other. Check the correct answer.



Credit: Khosroork | iStock | Getty Images Plus

1. It is June, and snow boots go on sale for 75% off their winter price Why?
☐ A. Low demand and high supply
☐ B. High demand and low supply
2. Next week the outside temperatures should reach 95 degrees for several days in a row, and the price for blow-up swimming pools goes up by 20%. Why?
☐ A. Low demand and high supply
☐ B. High demand and low supply
3. One year, when there was a shortage of palladium from mines, stores offered \$200 each for old, broken smartphones so that the palladium in them could be recycled to make new phones. During the palladium shortage, what was the supply and demand for old, broken smartphones?
☐ A. Low demand and high supply
☐ B. High demand and low supply

You’ll never get “tired” of recycling



Credit: chaimisuke | iStock | Getty Images Plus

How many summer days do you spend roaming around the neighborhood on bikes with your friends? Your wheels get you to your friends’ houses and maybe the park. But eventually you get a flat, and you’re stuck walking until you can replace the tire. Did you ever wonder what happens to the old tire from your bicycle? What about car tires or those huge monster truck tires?

Old tires left lying around collect water, which makes them the perfect place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. One tire can be a breeding ground for thousands of those pesky, disease-carrying bugs during the warm months, and no one wants to deal with that. Sometimes people choose to burn old tires, or they catch fire accidentally. These rubber fires are very difficult to put out and are terrible for the environment. Burning rubber releases toxic chemicals into the air and leaves behind an oily residue that pollutes streams and groundwater.

Tires don’t need to be left sitting on the ground and should not be burned. Instead, tires can be recycled into hundreds of useful products. For example, 20,000 tires can be made into one artificial turf athletic field. Rubber mulch has many uses in gardens and on playgrounds. When we hop into the car and go for a drive, the roads may be paved with asphalt containing rubber from recycled tires.

Please remind your parents to recycle old, worn-out tires. Thurston County accepts tires at the Waste and Recovery Center and at the Rainier and Rochester Drop-box facilities year-round at the regular garbage price. Tires must be no larger than 36 inches in diameter and may be left on the rims. Disposal is limited to 5 tires per customer per day.

The right way to dispose of old appliances

In the summer, you probably hang around the house a little more than you do during the school year. You get to sleep in a bit, then pull on a T-shirt and shorts from a stack of clean laundry. After you wake up a little more and wash your face, you head to the kitchen, open up the dishwasher, and grab a clean bowl and spoon for your morning cereal. Later in the day, after riding your bike around the neighborhood, you come home and fill a glass with ice and water, guzzle it down, and then grab a freezer pop. These are everyday things you do, but what happens when the washer and dryer quit working or the fridge goes out?

Suddenly, life gets a little harder — especially for your parents. We are used to having these appliances ready and waiting for our use. Without them, simple chores become a lot more time-consuming. Most large appliances, like stoves and dishwashers, last anywhere from 10 to 18 years, depending on how often they are used. If an appliance is not working and it is not very old, it probably makes sense for your family to have it repaired. However, if the refrigerator or clothes washer is older, your family will probably decide it's time to retire the old one and get a newer model.



These large appliances can be recycled. They are made of 60% steel which can be reused in new appliances or to make bikes or cars. Some stores will take away the old appliance for recycling when they deliver the new model. If not, you can take your appliances to the Waste and Recovery Center in Lacey, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Regular garbage rates apply for appliance recycling.

When your family is shopping, make it your job to look for the Energy Star logo. This logo means that the equipment will operate with little waste and use less energy than other models. For some appliances, your family's electric or gas company may offer special rebates, or money back, when you recycle an old appliance and replace it with a more energy-efficient model. Make sure you tell your parents to look for rebate information on the utility website.

The next time you reach into the refrigerator for a yogurt or help fold the laundry, remember that your hard-working appliances make life a lot easier. When it's time for you to say goodbye, recycle them.

Live it up at your local library

This summer don't forget to be a frequent visitor to your local library. It's a great place to have fun and keep your brain busy while school is out.



Credit: Ridofranz | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The library is a summer paradise of books, movies, fun activities, and more. Summer reading programs are a great way to keep your mind active while reading for prizes. Anyone with a library card can also borrow DVDs, as well as item from the Library of Things, such as forest exploration backpacks, fishing gear, and musical instruments. (Visit TRL.org/library-things to learn more about the Library of Things.) The internet at the library is free.

If you need help seeking information, library staff will help you search books, magazines, and other sources of knowledge.

What's the best part of all? The

library is all about reuse! Borrow books and movies and return them when you're finished. Others can borrow what you've returned, and then you can take out more. Ask Mom, Dad, or a grandparent to take you to the library soon!

The Timberland Regional Library offers a great selection of books and videos that are both educational and fun! Visit TRL.org to learn more.

Runaway Run-Ons

Read each run-on sentence. Fix the sentence by writing two simple sentences OR by writing one compound sentence using either a comma and coordinating conjunction or a semicolon.

1. Ella put the old cell phones in a box, her mom took the box to the van.

2. The cell phones can't be dropped off for recycling until Saturday Audrey put a reminder on the refrigerator door.

3. Layla rides her bike to the library Nathan walks.

4. Layla gets to the library first she finds a table.

5. Alejandro goes to the library to return Carl Hiaasen's book *Flush*, he stops to tell the girls about the book.



Credit: FangXiaNuo | E+ | Getty Images

Time After Time

At the county recycling office, a time capsule was found. The objects inside were clues to the year the time capsule was buried. Here is what was found inside:

1,019 chopsticks
152 beads
75 marble
761 pennies



Credit: RimSlok | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Add the number of objects. The total number of objects will give you the year the time capsule was buried, but not the reason. The time capsule was buried the year an exciting new product was sold. The pocket-sized product was made by Apple so that people could cordlessly communicate with each other, take photos, and listen to music. After that first year, the product — and all similar products — kept changing and improving, so people kept buying new models and discarding the old ones, creating a new kind of electronic waste.

1. What was the year? _____

2. What was the product? _____

Pollution Solution

Pollution above the ground can affect the roots of plants and the organisms that live deep down in the soil. This experiment will show you how pollutants can seep into the soil. For this experiment, you will need a colander, a sink, a clear plastic tub, rocks of different sizes from outside, water, a pitcher or beaker, and food coloring.

1. Put the rocks into the colander. Run water over the rocks to clean them. Remove all of the dirt.
2. Put the rocks in the clear plastic tub with the smallest on the bottom and largest on the top.
3. Pour a small amount of water over the rocks in the tub. Where does the water go? Write down your observations.
4. Empty the water and rocks into the colander.
5. Refill the plastic tub with rocks, again putting the smallest rocks at the bottom and the largest at the top.
6. Put water into a pitcher or beaker. Mix several drops of food coloring into the water. Does the food coloring change the water? How? Write down your observations.
7. Pour the water and food coloring solution slowly over the rocks in the tub. How far does the liquid sink? At the lowest point, is the water clear or colored by the food coloring? Write down your observations.
8. Carefully lift the tub and look at the bottom. What do you see?

Questions:

1. If the rocks are like soil and the food coloring is like pollution, how do you think pollution might affect the soil?

2. Once pollution is mixed with water, do you think it would be hard or easy to clean the water?

3. What kind of living things might be affected by pollution in the soil?

4. What could you do to stop the pollution from entering the soil? Do landfills use something similar?

5. List some kinds of waste you have at home that could mix with water and seep into the soil.



Credit: FatCamera | E+ | Getty Images

An Eco-Friendly Escape

Will your family be taking a vacation this summer? Be green travelers!

Will you be staying with relatives, like Grandma or your favorite aunt? Ask them what you can recycle and where to put your recycling. Recycling can work a little differently in different places, so take the opportunity to learn something new about your destination. Turn off lights and electronics when leaving rooms just as you would at home. Offer to help make meals and snacks.



Credit: bernie_photo | E+ | Getty Images

If you are staying at a hotel or campsite, ask what items are accepted for recycling and where to put recycling. Are there recycling bins next to the trash cans? Do you need to drop off the recycling somewhere? If recycling isn't available and your family is traveling by car, put recyclables into a bag and recycle them when you get home.

While you are enjoying your vacation, think about greener ways to see the sights. Bike share programs can be a great, green way to explore for your whole family. Biking is a healthy, fun way to experience a new place. Walk trails and beaches. When you have farther to go, use public transportation like buses, trolleys, subways, or ferries. Pack your own healthy snacks and reusable drink bottles to keep up your energy during outings.

When it's time to head home, make sure you've taken lots of photos, but don't take anything from nature with you. Don't leave behind any graffiti or litter. Take only photos and leave only footprints. These tips will keep you green on the go!



Avoiding Toxics

When your family has a job to do around the house, talk about some less toxic choices you can use to get the job done. Many times, a homemade cleaner might do the same work for less money. Check online for non-hazardous options. Here are a few examples:



Credit: ThamKC | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- Instead of spraying weed killer, pull weeds by hand.
- Instead of using chemical fertilizers, create healthier soil by composting food scraps and yard waste.
- Instead of drain cleaners, try baking soda and vinegar, followed by boiling water.
- Instead of window cleaners, use vinegar and water.

Funded by Thurston County Public Works, Solid Waste Division

Thurston County Public Works Solid Waste Division

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