



## How to Get Rid of Stuff You Don't Want or Need

### *Recommended methods for disposal of residential or household waste*

Check this chart for information about things that should go down toilets, sinks and other household drains; things that should go in household garbage; and things that should be disposed of in other safe, simple and healthy ways.

Improper disposal of things in toilets, sinks and household drains may clog sewer lines; harm public health, water quality and the environment; increase the cost of wastewater treatment; damage wastewater treatment equipment; or harm treatment plant workers.

This information was developed in consultation with representatives of the King County Wastewater Treatment Division, King County Solid Waste Division, King County Water and Land Resources Division, Public Health -- Seattle and King County, and Local Household Hazardous Waste Management Program.

This information is also available on the Web site of the Wastewater Treatment Division: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/oldstuff.htm>.

The chart below refers to the information sources and collection sites listed here:

#### ***Solid waste***

- King County Solid Waste Division's **What to do with ...?**
- **Garbage and Recycling Services:** [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/garbage-recycling/index.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/garbage-recycling/index.asp)
- **King County** has solid-waste transfer stations in Algona, Tukwila, Enumclaw, Factoria, Houghton, Renton, Shoreline and Vashon, and drop boxes in North Bend and Skykomish. For locations, check the Blue Pages in the phone book, call the Solid Waste Division at 206-296-4466 or visit [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities/transfer.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities/transfer.asp) on the Web.
- The **City of Seattle** has recycling and disposal stations at 8105 Second Ave. S. (South Park) and 1350 N. 34th St. (Fremont). For more information, refer to the City of Seattle Web site at [www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Garbage/Recycling\\_&\\_Disposal\\_Stations/index.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Garbage/Recycling_&_Disposal_Stations/index.asp).

#### ***Household hazardous waste***

For Wastemobile and collection site schedules, check the Web site or the Hazards Line below. Collection sites do not accept containers larger than 5 gallons without approval by the site manager. Large quantities of household hazardous waste also need approval. Call the Hazards Line for more information.

- **Web site** for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program: [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/)
- **Hazards Line:** 206-296-4692; toll free, 1-888-TOXIC-ED (or 1-888-869-4233); 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays.
- **King County** operates a Wastemobile that travels to various communities throughout King County to collect household hazardous waste. The Wastemobile usually operates for one or two weekends in a suburban city from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.
- **King County** has a household hazardous waste disposal storage locker at the Factoria Transfer Station, 13800 S.E 32nd St., Bellevue. The Factoria Locker, which has a 30-gallon

limit per customer per day, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through and Sunday, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

- The **City of Seattle's** South Transfer Station takes household hazardous waste. The hazardous waste site is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, except on public holidays. The address is 8105 Fifth Ave. S.
- The **City of Seattle's** North Aurora Hazardous Waste Site is available by appointment only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. Call the Hazards Line to make an appointment and get the site location.
- Except for City of Bothell residents living in Snohomish County, residents of **Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties** should call their hazardous waste agencies: Snohomish, 425-388-6050; Pierce, 800-287-6429; Kitsap, 360-337-5777.

**Small-business waste**

- **Business Waste Line:** 206-296-3976
- **Web site** for King County Wastewater Treatment Division's Industrial Waste Program: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste/>
- **Web site** for Hazardous Waste from Businesses and Other Organizations -- Local Hazardous Waste Management Program: [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/)

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<b>Animals and pets</b> Also see <b>Pet waste</b> below.	No	OK for dead animals less than 15 pounds (mice, hamsters, small lizards, birds, etc.)	Veterinary clinic Animal shelter Pet cemetery Bury on own property.
<b>Antifreeze</b>	Recycling preferred for this hazardous waste.	No	Take to household hazardous waste collection site for recycling. See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.
<b>Ashes</b>	No	Yes. Be sure they are completely out and cold.	
<b>Automotive products</b> (brake fluid, carburetor cleaner, engine degreaser, gasoline, transmission fluid)	No	No	Take to household hazardous waste collection site. See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.

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<b>Band-Aids, bandages</b> (and other nonbiodegradable plastics)	No	Yes	
<b>Cat and kitty litter</b>	No	Yes; bag to control dust	
<b>Cements and glues, petroleum based</b> (contact cement, epoxy, general purpose glue, instant glues, model cement, rubber cement, rubber cement thinner)	No	Acceptable for residential customers in King County, but using a household hazardous waste collection site is preferred.  Not acceptable in Seattle	Take to household hazardous waste collection site.  Consider safer alternatives for contact cement, general-purpose glue and rubber cement.  See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.
<b>Chemicals, chemical products</b> (not otherwise covered in this chart)	No	No	Take to household hazardous waste collection site.  May be advertised in the Industrial Materials Exchange Catalog; call 206-296-4899  For businesses, call Business Waste Line.  See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.
<b>Cigarette butts, matches</b>	No	Yes, but put it out first.	
<b>Cleaning product wipes</b> (for baby bottoms or other uses)  Also see <b>Household cleaners</b> below.	No, unless they have a flushable septic-tank-safe designation	Yes	
<b>Coffee grounds</b>	OK when connected to a sewerage system. No when connected to a septic tank	Yes	Use in compost or as soil amendment.  Use in a worm bin.

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<b>Coffee stirrers</b>	No	Yes	Consider using reusable silverware instead.
<b>Condoms, contraceptive sponges</b>	No	Yes	
<b>Cotton balls, Q-Tips</b>	No	Yes	
<b>Disposable diapers, incontinence products</b>	Removed fecal material only	Acceptable if loose fecal material is removed or if item is wrapped in a closed, leakproof container.	Consider use of reusable diapers or a diaper service.
<b>Drugs, medications, pharmaceuticals</b>	No	Acceptable, but leave in original container; put container in sealed heavy-duty "zip-lock" bag; conceal that bag in a second plastic bag to prevent being found.  To discourage unintended use, consider dissolving tablets or capsules in container with small amount of water. And consider adding sawdust, kitty litter or flour to liquid medications.	
<b>Eggshells</b>	No	Yes	Compost in worm bins.
<b>Excess household water</b> Also see <b>Rain, stormwater</b> below.	Yes, but conserve water to reduce household costs, preserve a valuable resource, and limit need to expand wastewater treatment facilities	No	Conserve water: Fix toilet leaks; use low-flow toilet, showerheads, faucet aerators and washing machines; wash complete loads of dishes and clothes; take (shorter) showers, not baths; turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
<b>Facial and nose tissue</b>	Yes	Yes	

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<b>Fats, oils and grease</b> (from food products)	No	No free liquids Let solidify. Mix cooking oil with an absorbent such as kitty litter or dirt to make the oil solid before disposing of it in the garbage. Dispose of large amounts on several collection days.	
<b>Feminine hygiene products</b> (tampon applicators, tampons, menstrual pads)	No	Yes	
<b>Fertilizers</b>	No	No. Empty containers OK.	Use up according to label directions. Consider using slow-release organic fertilizers and compost. Limit use of phosphorus on established lawns. See Pesticides (outdoor) for weed-and-feed products.
<b>Fingernails, toenails</b>	OK, but the garbage can is preferred.	Yes	

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<p><b>Food products, waste</b> Also see <b>Eggshells; Fats, oils and grease</b> above.</p>	<p>Yes for liquid food waste, except fats, oils and grease.  Normal discharge of solid household food waste through a garbage disposal is acceptable. Follow directions in disposal manual for proper use.</p>	<p>Yes for residential waste  For commercial waste, volumes less than one cubic foot solids or 5 gallons liquid accepted at transfer stations  Large volumes of commercial waste accepted at only Cedar Hills with Waste Clearance Decision. For more information, 206-296-4633 and <a href="mailto:wc@metrokc.gov">wc@metrokc.gov</a>.</p>	<p>Donate edible, packaged products to service providers such as Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest.  Except for meat, fish, poultry, cheese, oily foods, butter, other animal products ...  Use in compost.  Bury food waste in garden.  Use in worm bins.</p>
<p><b>Fruit and vegetable stickers</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>Hair</b></p>	<p>No long hair or large amounts. Incidental shavings OK.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>Hobby chemicals</b> (artists paints, chemistry sets, photographic materials)</p>	<p>No artists' paints, chemistry set items, and photo fixer.  Used photo stop bath neutralized with used photo developer (not containing fixer) OK in sinks and toilets connected to sewer systems.</p>	<p>No in the City of Seattle  Acceptable for residential customers in King County, but using a household hazardous waste collection site is preferred.</p>	<p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.  See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>

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<p><b>Household cleaners</b> (all-purpose, antibacterial products and disinfectants, ammonia, chlorine bleach, drain opener, toilet bowl cleaner)</p> <p>Also see other <b>Household cleaners</b> below.</p>	<p>Dispose of small amounts by pouring down drain with lots of water.</p>	<p>Acceptable for residential customers in King County, but using a household hazardous waste collection site is preferred.</p> <p>Not acceptable in Seattle</p>	<p>Use up according to label directions.</p> <p>Offer to others who can use them.</p> <p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.</p> <p>Consider using safer alternatives.</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>
<p><b>Household cleaners</b> (furniture polish, metal cleaner, oven cleaner, rust remover, spot and stain remover)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No flammable liquids.</p> <p>Acceptable for residential customers in King County, but using a household hazardous waste collection site is preferred.</p> <p>Not acceptable in Seattle</p>	<p>Use up according to label directions.</p> <p>Offer to others who can use them.</p> <p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.</p> <p>Consider using safer alternatives.</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>
<p><b>Human excrement, feces, urine</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No loose feces (disposal diapers and incontinence products accepted if loose fecal material is removed or if item is wrapped in a closed, leakproof container.)</p>	

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<p><b>Hypodermic needles, syringes, "sharps" waste</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>If the preferred methods listed at right are not available, use these safe disposal methods:</p> <p><b>In Seattle</b>, sharps may not be placed into the garbage in any type of container. Instead, put in labeled puncture-resistant container with tight fitting lid, and then take full containers to North or South transfer stations.</p> <p><b>King County Outside Seattle</b>, Put needles and sharps in puncture-resistant container with tight fitting lid (like a 2-liter pop bottle). Place a biohazard label on the bottle. Biohazard labels are available at Health Department. Drop off and exchange sites. If you do not have a biohazard label, write on the bottle "SHARPS, DO NOT RECYCLE" and put in garbage.</p> <p>Do not put red sharps containers into the garbage. They are made of a brittle plastic that will break and create a hazard to waste workers.</p>	<p>Best choice: Buy a sharps container at a pharmacy. Ask if you can bring the filled sharps container back to the pharmacy for drop off. Disposal service offered by Long's, Bartell's and some other pharmacies.</p> <p>Ask your doctor if you can return used sharps in containers to his or her office or clinic.</p> <p>Contact your solid waste collection company. Ask if it is taking part in a sharps mail-back program.</p> <p>Drop off your container at a Public Health Clinic or one of the special 24-hour syringe drop boxes in Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Federal Way, Renton, Seattle and White Center. For specific locations, call the Health Department at 206-205-7837 or visit this Web site:  <a href="http://www.metrokc.gov/health/apu/resources/disposal.htm">http://www.metrokc.gov/health/apu/resources/disposal.htm</a>.</p> <p>Visit a Needle Exchange location to get a free sharps container or to drop off or exchange used sharps.</p> <p>For more information, call King County Solid Waste at 206-296-4466 and Seattle Public Utilities at 206- 684-7600 (press 0 for a customer service representative).</p>

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<p><b>Liquids, miscellaneous</b> (vactor waste, off-specification soft drinks, etc.)</p>	<p>No large or commercial quantities</p>	<p>Free liquids not accepted. No flammable liquids Household-size containers in amounts of one case or less in general waste stream Larger amounts may be disposed at Cedar Hills with a Waste Clearance Decision. For more information, 206-296-4633 and <a href="mailto:wc@metrokc.gov">wc@metrokc.gov</a>.</p>	<p>Call Full Container Recycling Co., 253-272-7726.</p>
<p><b>Marbles, small toys</b></p>	<p>No. Monitor playful kids.</p>	<p>Yes, but ...</p>	<p>Give away usable items. Increase youthful joy.</p>
<p><b>Motor oil, other petroleum products</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Take waste oil to a service station, waste oil recycler or other waste-oil collection facility. Take small clean amounts to automotive retail stores that accept it, like Schucks. Take contaminated oil to a household hazardous waste collection site. In Seattle, take clean oil for recycling to the city's North or South Transfer Station. In King County, take clean oil to the waste collection locker in Factoria or to the Wastemobile. Call King County Solid Waste Division, 206-296-4466, for recycling information See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>

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<b>Nursing pads</b>	No	Yes	
<b>Paint and stains, oil-based</b> (enamel, alkyl, epoxy)	No	No	<p>Don't dry out these liquids before disposal.</p> <p>Take to household hazardous waste collection facility.</p> <p>Call the Hazards Line or see the hazardous waste Web site for collection sites.</p> <p>Businesses call the Business Waste Line.</p> <p>Consider using less-hazardous latex paints when possible.</p>
<b>Paint, latex</b>	No	<p>Not accepted in liquid form</p> <p>Dry out small amounts (one gallon or less) before putting in garbage.</p> <p>Dry out by painting small amounts on newspaper, cardboard or other material--or pour into cardboard box with kitty litter.</p> <p>Remove lids before putting empty paint cans in the garbage.</p>	<p>Use up or give away excess paint to friends, neighbors, community groups.</p> <p>For large amounts, call IMEX at 206-296-4899 for companies that collect household-generated paint.</p> <p>Call the Hazards Line to get free leftover latex paint and information on household hazardous waste collection facilities.</p> <p>Businesses call Business Waste Line.</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site.</p>

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<p><b>Paint solvents and thinners, turpentine, varnish/ lacquer, wood preservatives</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No (empty containers are OK)</p>	<p>Reuse paint thinner after letting solids settle out and removed.</p> <p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.</p> <p>Consider using safer alternative products</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>
<p><b>Paper towels and napkins</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>Personal care products</b> (hair color, nail polish, nail polish remover)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No flammable liquids Acceptable for residential customers, but using a household hazardous waste facility is preferred.</p>	<p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>
<p><b>Pesticides, indoor</b> (ant/roach killer, flea killers, flying insect killer, lice shampoo, mothballs, rat poison)</p> <p><b>Pesticides, outdoor</b> (garden fungicides, insect killers, slug poison, weed killers, weed-and-feed, wood preservatives)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Empty containers acceptable, but don't rinse or recycle</p>	<p>Unless it's banned, use up according to label directions.</p> <p>Offer to others who can use them.</p> <p>Take to household hazardous waste collection site.</p> <p>Consider using safer alternative products and methods.</p> <p>See hazardous waste Web site or call the Hazards Line for more information.</p>

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<b>Pet waste, animal manure</b>	Yes for household pet waste, but no kitty litter	Dispose of in public or residential garbage can, wrapped in a closed leak-proof bag or container. Waste cannot make up more than 10 percent of can volume.  No pet waste from businesses	Bury on own property--in ornamental gardens, not vegetable gardens--if it does not affect water or cause a nuisance. Composting cat or dog waste is not recommended.  Take livestock waste and manure to a composting facility.  Commercial kennels and other businesses should contact King County Industrial Waste Program, 206-263-3000.
<b>Rags, oily and otherwise</b>	No	Dry out and dispose of in household garbage.  Dry out household rags soaked with solvents, gasoline or oil-based paints in safe, ventilated area.	
<b>Rain, stormwater</b> (roof drains, storm drains, etc.)	No, especially for new connections  See preferred alternative.	No	Where appropriate and allowed, disconnect residential roof drains, downspouts, yard drains and catch basins, then reroute to separate stormwater system--or allow water to soak into the ground using acceptable methods. <b>Please check</b> with your local wastewater utility for local guidelines: <a href="http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/mwpaac/">http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/mwpaac/</a> .  Consider using a rain barrel.
<b>Razors, razor blades</b>	No	Yes	

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<b>Styrofoam and other packaging</b>	No	Yes for styrofoam and plastics	Recycle cardboard and paper packaging.

11/8/04--gbl