



# THE USUAL SUSPECTS

*You know these hazardous materials don't belong in the trash.  
But what do you do with them? Find out inside.*



# DO THE RIGHT THING FOR SACRAMENTO

*Proper management  
of household  
hazardous waste  
protects our  
environment*

BY MATT JOCKS



Proper management of household hazardous waste prevents the materials from going to a landfill, where they can leak out into Sacramento's watershed and create problems years later.  
PHOTO BY NATE ECKLER

What do you do with all of that toxic, corrosive stuff that sits in your garage or under your sink? It used to be simple. Load it up in the car and take it to its final destination — the local landfill.

Except that the final destination turned out not to be so final.

“Landfills are designed well and they are certainly getting better,” says Ken Pereira, Supervising Waste Management Specialist for Sacramento County. “But no matter how well-designed a landfill is, some of that material can leak out into the environment.”

Once communities were made aware of the environmental risks of trashing hazardous waste, laws were put in place to mandate proper disposal of materials such as antifreeze and batteries.

Pereira says, “Lawmakers started deciding, ‘You can’t dump this,’ and ‘You can’t dump that.’ Lists began to appear. And the question was asked, ‘If we can’t throw it out, what do we do with it?’”

The answer is Sacramento County’s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program. Residents can bring their products to four drop-off points in Sacramento County. It is free of charge at the point of service, being paid through a small fee included in residents’ trash bills.

For residents, the process is as simple as driving to one of the four centers, showing proof of residency, reporting the products to be disposed and waiting in the car while an attendant unloads.

The program raises awareness about proper HHW disposal through its website and inserts in the monthly trash and sewer bills. Pereira says it’s made a huge impact, resulting in 1.2 million pounds of hazardous waste being collected last year — and that was from just one facility.

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Ken Pereira  
Supervising Waste Management Specialist for Sacramento County

Otherwise, those hazardous materials might have ended up in a landfill, a ditch somewhere, or in someone’s backyard or garage.

“That pollution has to be cleaned sometime and it becomes more expensive to clean it up than prevent it,” Pereira says. “Money spent now is more money saved later.”

## WHY CAN'T I THROW IT IN THE TRASH?

The products we use every day in our homes serve a purpose. But when it’s time to dispose of them, special care must be taken to make sure potentially harmful ingredients don’t make their way into our environment. Chemicals in illegally or improperly disposed hazardous waste can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water and possibly the food we eat. And by throwing hazardous waste in the garbage, you can pose additional hazards to your garbage handler. See page 5 for a list of products you should always take to a HHW facility.

### How to reduce your use of HHW

- Estimate what you need and don’t overbuy.
- Read labels and seek organic products.
- Learn about alternative methods of solving household issues that use less harmful substances, like baking soda and vinegar.

# LIKE SECOND NATURE

*Elk Grove resident says recycling HHW is easy  
— and the right thing to do*



Don O'Hair believes in being a good steward of our environment. That's why he takes his household hazardous waste to the Elk Grove Waste Collection Center via bicycle (his preferred mode of transportation).  
PHOTO BY NATE ECKLER

BY MATT JOCKS

**"IN ANOTHER  
20 OR 30 YEARS,  
WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ME TO  
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Don O'Hair  
*Elk Grove resident*

A hybrid car is a big cost investment. Riding a bicycle can be strenuous. Changing to more environmentally friendly products may require an adjustment.

Don O'Hair has done all of those. But the easiest way to be gentle to the planet is to recycle, and it doesn't get much easier than a trip to the Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center.

At least three or four times a year, O'Hair loads up potentially hazardous waste, such as electronics or household products, into his bike trailer and travels the 1 1/2 miles from his house to the Elk Grove facility.

Along the way, O'Hair will sometimes see products that are improperly disposed, things like fluorescent light tubes sticking out of garbage cans. These are toxic hazards headed for landfills and eventually into the environment, where they can contaminate our air, water and possibly the food we eat.

"We need air and food and water to live," O'Hair says. "Those are pretty basic things."

O'Hair says his environmental awareness is not a new development. He was president of his high school's ecology club, didn't get his first car until he was 28 and is now driving his second hybrid.

"It's always been second nature to me," he says. "I kind of dragged my wife, kicking and screaming, into it."

His own contributions to the Elk Grove center generally run toward electronic waste because he tries to avoid as many toxic chemical products to begin with. But O'Hair is also on the lookout for other items.

"When my son moved out of the house, he left some cans of [bug spray]," O'Hair says. "When my mom passed away, she left me a couple of old mercury thermometers. Those are not necessarily good things to have in the environment."

O'Hair says he has tried to gently pass the word about the ease and importance of proper disposal and recycling at places like the Elk Grove center. It's a simple step we all can take to protect the environment.

"In another 20 or 30 years, when it's time for me to move on, I worry about what kind of place my kids and grandkids will have to live in," O'Hair says.

## BUT WHAT ABOUT ...

Tricky items you may not realize were HHW



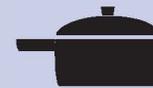
### Musical greeting cards

Your birthday card that belts out a tune when you open it is powered by a battery, which contains heavy metals and corrosive materials. Rip out the battery before you toss the card.



### Unused medication

Unused or expired medications could pose a threat to the environment if put in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Instead, remove identifying labels and drop them off at an HHW facility.



### Cooking oil

The leftover oil from your deep-fried Twinkie experiment can clog up pipes if dumped down the drain, or create havoc for waste facilities. Bring it to an HHW facility and it will be reused as biofuel.

# WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Where to drop off household hazardous waste in Sacramento County

## North Area Recovery Station HHW Facility



### Did you know ...

North Area Recovery Station HHW Facility serves more than **10,000 customers** annually

**1 million pounds** of household hazardous waste managed in 2014

Facility was expanded and renovated in **2013** thanks to CalRecycle grants

### North Area Recovery Station HHW Facility

4450 Roseville Road  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
916-875-5555

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center



### Did you know ...

Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center opened on **Earth Day 2014**

**300,000 lbs. of recyclable materials** diverted from landfill during first year of operation

Recognized for  
**Outstanding Program Innovation**  
by North American  
Hazardous Material Management  
Association

### Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center

9255 Disposal Lane, Elk Grove, CA 95624  
916-627-3232

Sunday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## TO DUMP, OR NOT TO DUMP?

So, just what do household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off sites accept? Sacramento County and the cities of Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove aim to keep HHW out of the landfills. Keep this page handy as a reminder of what items are accepted and how to transport them.



### Procedures for packaging and transporting items to HHW facility

- Keep products in their original containers. Do not mix products and make sure lids are tightly sealed. Label materials that are not in their original containers.
- Place leaking containers in a larger, plastic container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Secure products upright in a cardboard box so they do not tip over in transport.
- Transport products in the back of a pickup truck or in a car trunk. Ensure adequate ventilation if transported in car passenger compartment.
- Keep flammables out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat, spark, flame or ignition. Do not smoke near products.

➔ For more information, visit [www.sacgreenteam.com](http://www.sacgreenteam.com).

## Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station



### Did you know ...

Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station opened in **1999**

Serves approximately  
**7,500 customers**  
annually

Processes  
**705,000 to 790,000 pounds**  
of HHW each year

**Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station HHW Facility**  
8491 Fruitridge Road,  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
916-379-0500  
Tuesday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Kiefer Landfill ABOP



### Did you know ...

ABOP stands for **antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint**

Serves approximately  
**4,000 customers** annually

Accepts and manages **250,000 pounds** of  
recyclable HHW each year

Only accepts **recyclable HHW**

**Kiefer Landfill ABOP**  
12701 Kiefer Boulevard.,  
Sloughouse, CA 95683  
916-875-5555  
Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### ✓ Acceptable Items

- Acids\*
- Brake/transmission fluid and antifreeze
- Household cleaners\*
- Pool chemicals and poisons\*
- Gasoline and other flammables\*
- Pesticides and herbicides\*
- Paint (oil-based or latex) and paint thinners
- Solvents\*
- Household batteries
- Car batteries (two max.)
- Small aerosol cans
- Home-generated needles and syringes (in sealed hard plastic or metal containers)
- Unused medications
- Mercury thermometers and switches
- Used motor oil and filters
- Fluorescent tubes
- Propane tanks (barbecue style, limit two, maximum 7 gallons)
- Cooking oil
- Other types of household hazardous waste are also accepted (15-gallon or 125 pounds maximum)\*



\*Items not accepted at Kiefer Landfill ABOP

### ✗ Unacceptable Items

- Radioactive materials
- Railroad ties or treated wood
- Explosives (flares are acceptable)
- Medical waste
- Asbestos
- Controlled substances
- Ammunition
- Compressed industrial gas
- Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a banned chemical compound previously used in coolants and plasticizers



## NOTHING WASTED AT THE REUSE LOCKER

For Valerie Pitney to find her way to the North Area Recovery Center's Reuse Locker, she needed a sign. No, not a signal from the heavens. An actual sign.

Pitney volunteers for a program at Craigmont Stables that allows people with autism or Down syndrome to work with horses. The stables needed to make signs and, for that, Pitney needed paint.

"They had everything I needed," Pitney says. "Pretty much every other week, I go by there."

Pitney's shopping list has expanded and she regularly selects the reusable household products and gardening supplies from among the 10,000 pounds of household hazardous waste residents drop off at the facility each month. By safely reusing these items, residents can save on purchases while helping the County avoid the cost of disposal.

And there is the satisfaction of playing a part in helping the environment.

"I've always believed in not being wasteful," Pitney says.

There are two Reuse Locker locations:

➔ **The North Area Recovery Station  
HHW Facility**  
4450 Roseville Road  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
www.sacgreenteam.com  
916-875-5555

➔ **Elk Grove Special Waste  
Collection Center**  
9255 Disposal Lane  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
916-627-3232

**'IT'S PROBABLY A COUPLE OF  
THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR  
IT SAVES US. AND THAT'S A  
LOT OF MONEY FOR US.'**

Michelle Ward  
Facilities Manager at Grace House



Robert Cloud uses donated cleaner to keep his kitchen tidy at Grace House, which provides transitional housing for homeless individuals. Donated household hazardous waste from the Elk Grove Reuse Locker finds a purpose again while saving the housing program money.

PHOTO BY NATE ECKLER

# 'EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS'

*Discarded household  
cleaners find new life in  
transitional housing program*

BY MATT JOCKS

Helping the homeless is a big issue, requiring big hearts, big effort and big budgets.

But on the ground, it's often the little things that make the difference. Things like shampoo and window cleaner. Things that many people don't think about when they see media coverage about houses for the homeless.

It's those things that affect our daily quality of life. And, for an operation like Grace House, one of the housing options for homeless individuals in the Sacramento Self-Help Housing program, it's those things that could add up to quite an expense.

But they don't thanks to a household hazardous waste reuse program located in Elk Grove.

At least once a month, Michelle Ward, the Facilities Manager for Grace House, will get a call from staff at the Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center, telling her that there are items such as detergent and ammonia available for Grace House.

The ability to use those half-full bottles for their intended purpose not only keeps the chemicals out of landfills, it has an added benefit to facilities like Grace House.

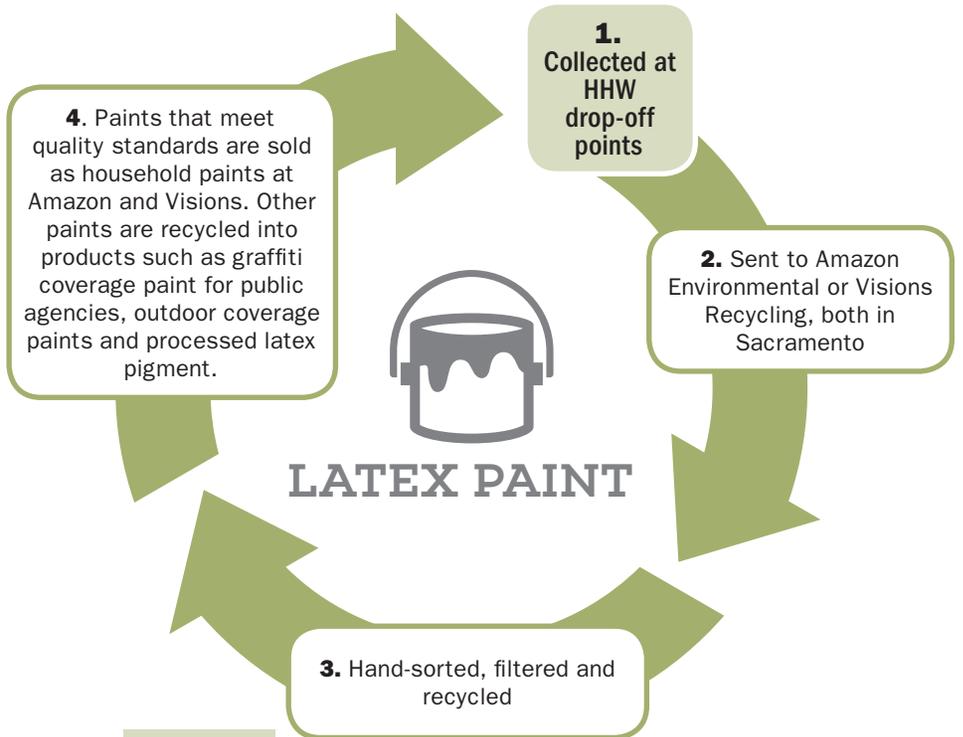
"It helps so much," Ward says. "I haven't really sat down to figure it out, but it's probably a couple of thousand dollars a year it saves us. And that's a lot of money for us. Without that, we probably would have to reach out a lot more to the community, asking for help."

With the products coming from the Reuse Locker, the staff of Grace House saves time and money, both commodities in short supply.

"You live in a house and you need to wash the dishes and wash your clothes. Those are the kinds of things that are often forgotten. And some of those things, you can't use food stamps for," Ward says. "Every little bit helps. This is a wonderful program for us."

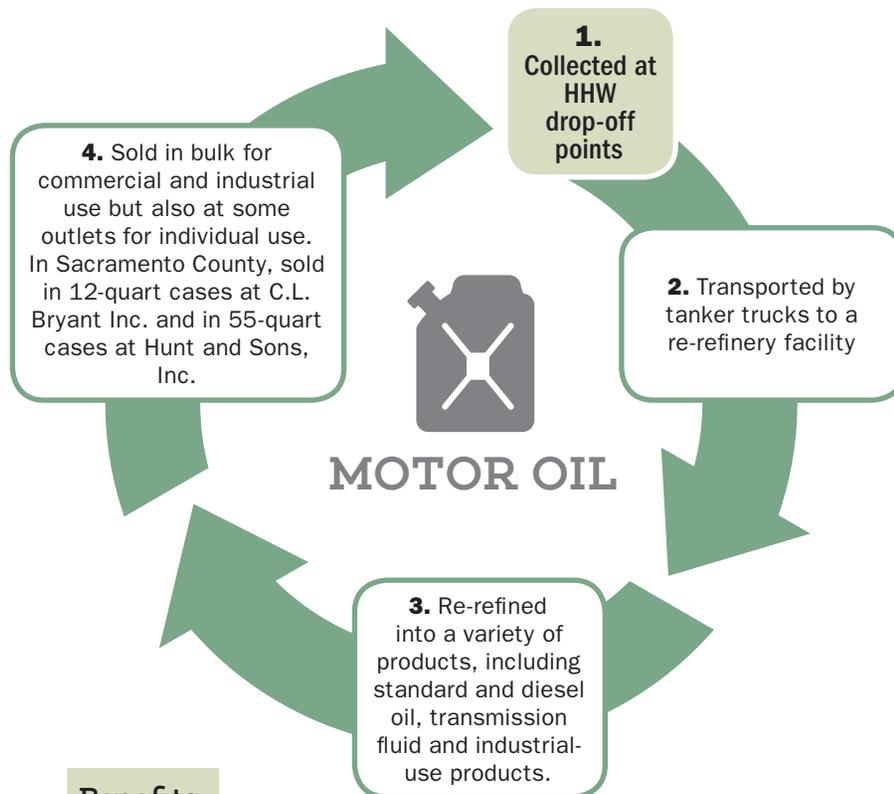
# WHAT HAPPENS TO IT?

*The life cycle of some common HHW items*



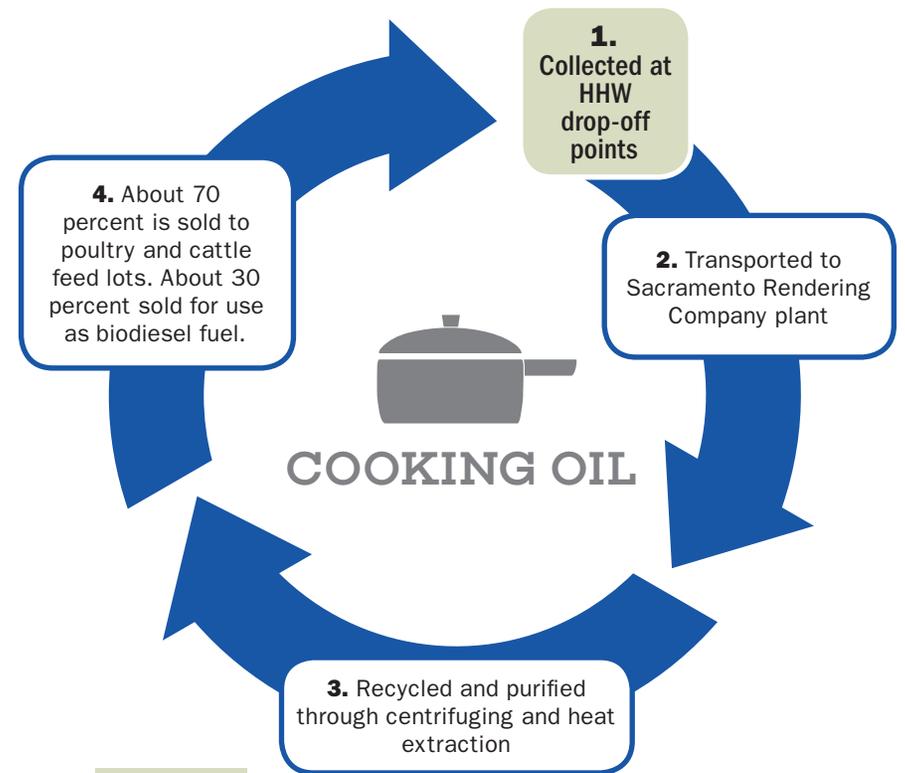
## Benefits

Reusing paint extends its life and keeps toxic chemicals out of the landfill.



## Benefits

Re-refining results in an 85 percent reduction of greenhouse gases, according to a state study.



## Benefits

Recycling cooking oil keeps grease out of sewer pipes, where it can build up.

# KNOW WHERE IT GOES

Keep household hazardous waste out of the trash



*Do the right thing -  
it's easy and it's free to use!*

Take your HHW to one of these locations:

## ① North Area Recovery Station HHW Facility

4450 Roseville Road, North Highlands, CA 95660  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
916-875-5555

## ② Kiefer Landfill ABOP

12701 Kiefer Blvd., Sloughouse, CA 95683  
Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
916-875-5555

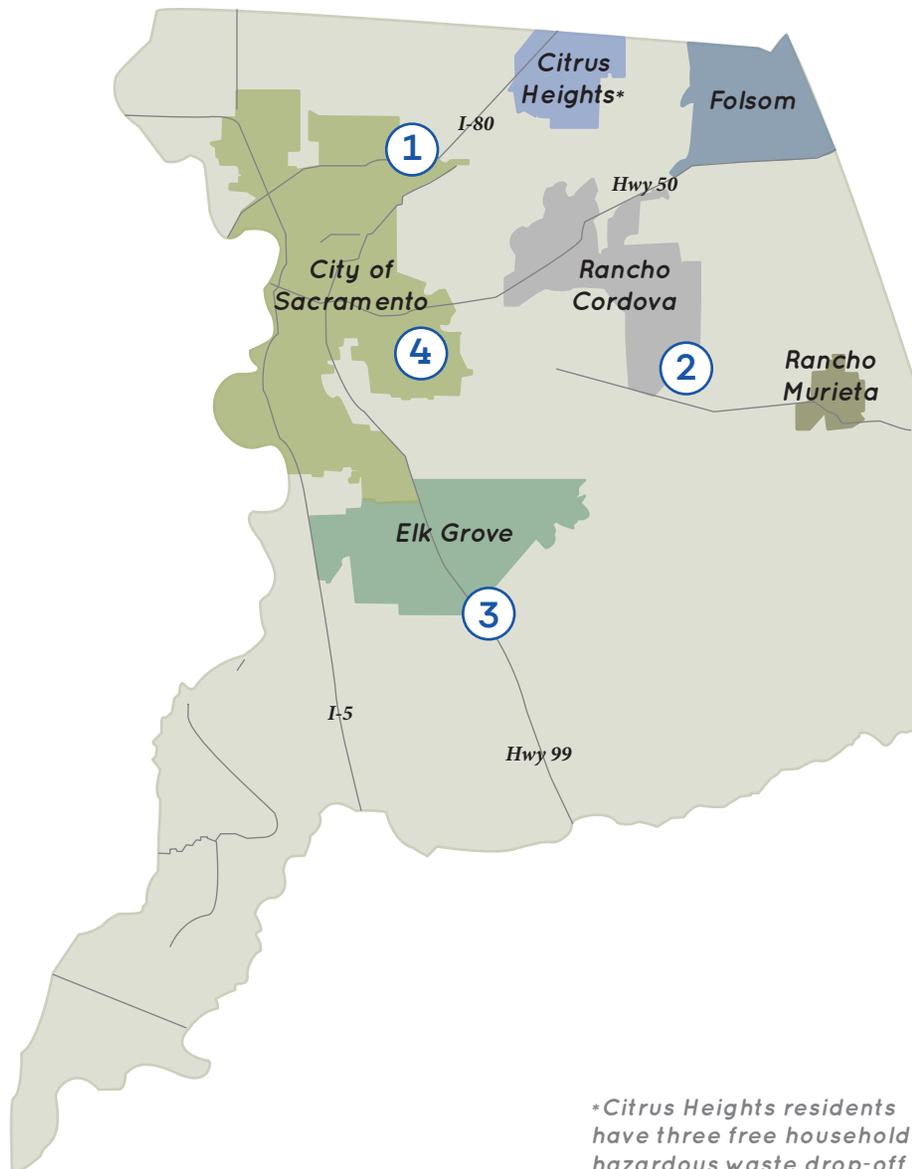
## ③ Elk Grove Special Waste Collection Center

9255 Disposal Lane, Elk Grove, CA 95624  
Sunday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
916-627-3232

## ④ Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station HHW Facility

8491 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826  
Tuesday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
916-379-0500

*NOTE: Businesses are subject to a disposal fee for HHW. Call your facility  
for more information.*



*\*Citrus Heights residents  
have three free household  
hazardous waste drop-off  
events held each year. Visit  
[citrusheights.net](http://citrusheights.net) for dates.*