

# NYC

## SAFE DISPOSAL

### Harmful Products:

## NYC's Residential Guide to Safe Handling and Disposal



Medical Waste



Automotive Products



Mercury-Containing Products



Electronics



Gas Cylinders



Maintenance Products



Cleaning Products



Pest Control

A guide to help you protect yourself,  
your kids, your loved ones, and your pets.

*Please retain for future reference.*



**NYC**  
Recycles

NYC Department of Sanitation  
Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability

call 311  
[nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal)  
f t i NYC Recycles

 Printed on recycled paper, of course.  
Save for reference — or recycle it!

# Quick Disposal Reference

Items marked (X) cannot be discarded in the trash. All items listed below can be brought to a SAFE Disposal Event; visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for more info. Certain items can be brought year-round to a NYC Department of Sanitation Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site (see page 20 of this guide).

(Please refer to each section for complete details.)

## Antifreeze

Have your antifreeze changed by a professional who will recycle the used antifreeze as part of the service.

## Auto Batteries (X)

Return automotive batteries to any service station or auto supply store, or bring to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.

## Electronics (X)

- Bring cell phones to any wireless provider for free recycling.
- NYC apartment buildings can enroll in e-cycleNYC, a program that provides buildings with a free service to pick up and recycle unwanted electronics. Visit [nyc.gov/ecycle](https://nyc.gov/ecycle) for info.
- Drop off or mail back working and non-working electronics through a legally mandated recycling program funded by electronics manufacturers, offered at Best Buy, Goodwill, Office Depot, Salvation Army, Staples, and other locations.

## Fluorescent Bulbs

Drop-off CFLs at Home Depot, Ikea, Lowe's, or bring any fluorescent bulb to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.

## Medications

- Visit [dontflushyourdrugs.net](https://dontflushyourdrugs.net) for drop-off events.
- Mix with kitty litter or wet coffee grounds, double bag, and discard in trash.

## Mercury Thermostats and Thermometers (X)

Recycle mercury thermostats through the Thermostat Recycling Corporation ([thermostat-recycle.org](https://thermostat-recycle.org)); or bring mercury-containing devices to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.

## Motor Oil (X)

Bring used motor oil and transmission fluid to service stations that change oil, or to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.

## Paint

- Bring leftover latex paint to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.
- Latex (water-based) and oil-based paint can be dried out and discarded as trash.

## Propane Tanks (X)

Exchange your empty propane tank for a full tank at any local propane tank dealer.

## Rechargeable Batteries (X)

Recycle rechargeable batteries at any store that sells them, or bring to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.

## Syringes and Lancets

- Place in a puncture-resistant container and label it as "SHARPS - DO NOT RECYCLE."
- Bring labeled container of used sharps to any hospital or nursing home in NY State, or discard the labeled container in the trash.

# Harmful Products:

## NYC's Residential Guide to Safe Handling and Disposal

This guide is intended to help New Yorkers properly store, use, and discard commonly used harmful household products. Please retain for future reference.

### Human health concerns:

- Some common household products can harm you, your family, city workers, and the environment.
- Unintentional swallowing or improper use of products can cause severe illness and even death.
- The NYC Poison Control Center receives over **95,000 calls** each year concerning intentional and unintentional poisonings.
- Improperly discarded items can harm Sanitation workers, causing eye, respiratory, and burn injuries.
- Chemicals from harmful products can contaminate our water and soil.

### Improvements and alternatives:

- Alkaline batteries and latex paint are no longer dangerous (or pose a minimal threat) because they are now manufactured with no or few hazardous chemicals.
- There are many safe, non-toxic alternatives to common harmful household products.

## Poison Help Hotline

If you think a family member (or pet) has been exposed to a harmful product, call the NYC Poison Control Center Hotline at **1-800-222-1222** or **212-764-7667**. The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



*Scan to learn more about NYC Poison Control Center and save the number to your contacts.*

# Handling Tips

## Before Buying

**Look for hazard levels on product labels.** Look for signal words — DANGER and POISON indicate high-level hazards; WARNING and CAUTION convey lower levels. Pay attention to other messages on the label such as “causes burns on contact,” “vapors harmful,” or “extremely flammable.” To go beyond the label, search online for Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the specific product.



**Don't buy more than you need.** Think about how much you'll actually use in order to reduce how much you discard or store. You can also look online or at the store for calculators to help you determine how much you need.

**Consider environmentally preferable products.** Many retailers sell alternative products that are organic or made with safer ingredients. To ensure that a product is environmentally preferable, look for third-party certifications such as:



## When Using

**Follow product instructions.** More is not better — you won't get twice the results by using twice as much. Use products only as directed and only when necessary.

**Never mix products or chemicals.** This is especially true for ammonia and bleach, which can cause respiratory problems when combined.

**Store potentially harmful products out of the reach of children and pets.** Use child-resistant cabinet locks or containers.

## When Discarding

**Read product instructions for disposal guidelines.**

**Double-bag before discarding.** For the safety of Sanitation workers, please double-bag harmful products before discarding these products in your regular trash.

**Recycle empty containers.** Unless marked “DANGER — CORROSIVE,” empty glass or plastic bottles and all metal containers can be recycled through NYC's recycling program.



**What can't go in the trash.** The specific items that NYC residents can't discard in the trash include:

- Asbestos
- Batteries — auto and rechargeable
- Certain electronics
- Mercury-containing devices  
*(including thermometers and thermostats; fluorescent bulbs are okay to discard)*
- Gas cylinders *(such as propane tanks)*

**What about other harmful products?** Many harmful products (such as fluorescent bulbs, paints, pesticides, and cleaning products) can be legally discarded in residential trash because residents usually generate small quantities of these products.

**What about businesses, government, and other commercial entities?** Different rules apply to commercial entities, which generate larger quantities of harmful materials.

**Other Sanitation disposal options.**

NYC residents may bring certain products to DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Sites. See the last section of this guide for locations.

The NYC Department of Sanitation holds annual SAFE Disposal Events throughout the City where NYC residents can drop off all types of hazardous materials. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about upcoming events.

# Household Medical Waste

Many people use syringes, needles, and lancets — known as household sharps — to manage their health care at home. Proper storage and disposal of household sharps is necessary to protect children, pets, and Sanitation workers. Needles and other sharps may cause cuts and the transmission of blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS.

## Used Syringes and Lancets

### *Safe Handling and Disposal*

**Package safely.** Place used syringes and lancets in a “sharps” container or other leak-proof, puncture-resistant container. If you’re using a detergent or bleach bottle, close the screw-on top tightly and label the container “Home Sharps — not for recycling.” Make sure to keep the container closed between uses. Do not clip, bend, or try to recap syringes and lancets.

**Keep away from children and pets.** Put sharps into your container immediately after using. Keep containers stored safely, away from children and pets.

**Bring used sharps to any hospital or nursing home in New York State.** All NY State hospitals and nursing homes are required by law to act as collection centers for used household sharps, including syringes and lancets, with no identification required. In addition, many pharmacies and other health sites may voluntarily and anonymously accept sharps.

Visit the NY State Department of Health website [nyhealth.gov/sharps-collection](https://nyhealth.gov/sharps-collection) or call **1-800-522-5006** for drop-off times and instructions.

If not taking advantage of a sharps disposal program, **place properly labeled “home sharps” containers in the trash.** Never place loose sharps in the trash, and never place sharps containers in your recycling bin.



**Bring used sharps to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

### **Enforcement**

Contact the NY State Department of Health at **1-800-522-5006** if a hospital or nursing home refuses to accept your syringe or sharps.

### **Unwanted Medications**

With the exception of certain medications, **unwanted medications should not be flushed down the toilet.** Instead, mix them with an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter); put in impermeable, nondescript containers (such as empty cans or sealable bags) marked “not recyclable — disposal only,” and place in the trash.



**Visit the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation website at [dontflushyourdrugs.net](http://dontflushyourdrugs.net)** for guidelines and drop-off events.

**Bring unwanted medications to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

### **Other Household Medical Materials**

**Use securely tied bags** to dispose of soiled bandages, disposable sheets, medical gloves, tubing, and intravenous (IV) materials in the trash.

**See “Household Products Containing Mercury”** for information about disposal of mercury thermometers and other medical devices that contain mercury.

# Automotive Products

## Motor Oil and Transmission Fluid

It is illegal to discard used motor oil or transmission fluid in the trash, on the ground, or into sewers.

### *Purchasing and Disposal*

**Maintain your vehicle regularly to avoid fluid leaks.**

**Try re-refined oil for your next oil change.**

Re-refined oil is subject to the same stringent refining, compounding, and performance standards as virgin oil.

**Bring used motor oil and transmission fluid to service stations that change oil.** These businesses are required to accept up to five gallons of used motor oil per day, per person, at no charge.

**Recycle used motor oil, transmission fluid, and oil filters by taking them to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site or an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** You can bring up to ten quarts of motor oil or transmission fluid and two oil filters per visit.



See the last section of this guide for DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site locations. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about upcoming SAFE Disposal Events.

### *Enforcement:*

Contact the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation at [bit.ly/tippdec](http://bit.ly/tippdec) or **1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)** if a service station refuses to accept your motor oil.

## Antifreeze

Antifreeze is poisonous and can be lethal if ingested. Keep antifreeze away from children and pets who may find the color and sweet smell appealing and drink it.

### *Safe Disposal*

**Never drain antifreeze from your car onto the street, and do not dispose of antifreeze down the drain, in sewers, or into streams.**



**Have your antifreeze changed by a professional who will recycle the used antifreeze as part of the service.**

**Regularly check your radiator, reservoir, and all hoses for leaks.** Repair any leaks immediately.

**Consider using less-toxic antifreeze** made of propylene glycol (rather than ethylene glycol). Readily available at a cost comparable to conventional antifreeze, less-toxic antifreeze provides the same protection.

**Bring used antifreeze to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

## Automotive Batteries

It is illegal in NY State to discard a car battery in the trash or on the street.

### *Safe Disposal*

Automotive batteries are recyclable and there are many places throughout the City where they can be dropped off.



**Return automotive batteries to any service station or auto supply store that sells them.** Whenever you buy a new battery, you pay a \$5 surcharge. If you return a “dead” car battery when purchasing a new one, the \$5 surcharge on the new battery is waived.

**Bring “dead” automotive batteries to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site or an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.**

See the last section of this guide for DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site locations. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about upcoming SAFE Disposal Events.

### *Enforcement:*

Contact the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation at [bit.ly/tippdec](https://bit.ly/tippdec) or **1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)** if a service station refuses to accept your auto batteries.

# Household Products Containing Mercury

Mercury is sometimes used in thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent light bulbs, and can be hazardous if inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin. Mercury-containing products that are improperly disposed can cause damage to local waterways, air, and the environment.

If a mercury spill occurs, call the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation's Spills Hotline at **1-800-457-7362**.

## Fluorescent Tubes and CFLs

### *Safe Handling and Disposal*

**Handle bulbs with care.** All lamps are made of glass and should be handled carefully to avoid breakage. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and fluorescent tubes contain minimal amounts of mercury but are safe to use. If you break a bulb, follow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines at [epa.gov/cfl](http://epa.gov/cfl) to ensure your safety.



**Drop-off CFLs at Home Depot, Ikea, Lowe's,** or another participating retailer for recycling. For more information about participating retailers, visit [nyc.gov/takeback](http://nyc.gov/takeback).

**Bring fluorescent tubes and CFLs to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site or an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** See the last section of this guide or visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for more info.

**Double bag if discarding in the trash** to prevent injury to Sanitation workers.

**Businesses and nonprofits cannot discard fluorescents in the trash.**

## Thermostats, Thermometers, and Other Devices Containing Mercury

### *Reduce Risk of Exposure*

#### **Switch to a digital fever thermometer.**

NY State bans the sale of mercury fever thermometers. Digital thermometers with changeable batteries are accurate and reliable alternatives to mercury thermometers.



#### **Switch to programmable electronic thermostats.**

These do not contain mercury and are more energy efficient than mercury ones.



### *Safe Disposal*

It is illegal in NY State for residents to discard mercury-containing devices in the trash (other than fluorescent lamps):

**When remodeling your home or updating your heating system,** your contractor is required by law to recycle mercury thermostats.

#### **Recycle mercury thermostats through the Thermostat Recycling Corporation.**

Visit the Thermostat Recycling Corporation website at [thermostat-recycle.org](http://thermostat-recycle.org) for participating locations such as thermostat wholesalers or retailers.

**Bring thermometers, thermostats, and other devices containing mercury to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site or an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.**

See the last section of this guide for DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site locations. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about upcoming SAFE Disposal Events.

### *Enforcement*

Contact the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation at [bit.ly/tippdec](http://bit.ly/tippdec) or **1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)** if a manufacturer, wholesaler, or contractor refuses to recycle your mercury thermostat.

# Electronic Products

## Cell Phones, TVs, Computers, and Peripherals

Computers, monitors, and printers have components that contain hazardous materials, such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. Though safe to use, electronic equipment can pose dangers to the environment when not properly discarded. As of January 2015, NY State residents are prohibited from disposing of certain electronics in the trash.

### *Purchasing and Disposal*

**Buy electronics manufactured with fewer hazardous chemicals.** Products rated as EPEAT Gold, Silver, or Bronze meet certain product and manufacturer standards. Product qualities include: less harmful materials, more recycled-content, long lasting, energy efficient, reduced packaging, and easily recycled. Visit [epeat.net](http://epeat.net) for info.



**NY State Law mandates producers take responsibility for their products.** Wireless providers must accept used cell phones for recycling at their stores and through mail-back programs; manufacturers must collect and recycle or reuse unwanted electronics. Each manufacturer must maintain a toll-free number and website with info on how to return items for recycling. Visit the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation website at [bit.ly/cellwastedec](http://bit.ly/cellwastedec) (for cell phones) and [bit.ly/ewastedec](http://bit.ly/ewastedec) (for electronics).

Covered electronics include:



# Recycling Options for working & non-working electronics\*

- 1 DSNY's e-cycleNYC program.**  
Apartment buildings with more than 10 units can enroll for this free and convenient pickup service ([nyc.gov/ecycle](http://nyc.gov/ecycle)).
- 2 Retail drop-off programs.**  
For example, drop off electronics (no purchase required) at any Goodwill, Salvation Army, Best Buy, Staples (no TVs), or the Gowanus E-Waste Warehouse. See [nyc.gov/electronics](http://nyc.gov/electronics) for more info.
- 3 Free mail-back programs.**  
Check your brand's website for details.
- 4 Electronics recycling events.**  
Bring to events run by organizations such as Lower East Side Ecology Center, or DSNY's SAFE Disposal Events ([nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal)).
- 5 Donate or sell working electronics.**  
Visit [nyc.gov/stuffexchange](http://nyc.gov/stuffexchange) for options.

\* These programs are funded by electronics manufacturers in accordance with NY State law.

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## Recycling Options for Related Items

mobile phones: recycle using the options above or through any wireless service provider.

appliances & housewares which are mostly metal or rigid plastic: remove any batteries and recycle with other rigid plastics, metal, glass, and cartons.

rechargeable batteries: accepted for recycling at most stores in NY State that sell them (or products containing them).

For more info, visit [nyc.gov/recycle](http://nyc.gov/recycle).



## Batteries

With the exception of rechargeable and lithium batteries (commonly used for portable equipment), most batteries pose little risk to the environment if thrown in the trash. Standard household alkaline batteries no longer contain mercury.



### *Purchasing and Disposal*

Before you buy or discard batteries in the trash, consider the following:

**Try rechargeable batteries.** Rechargeable batteries can be used many times before disposal, saving you money and reducing the number of batteries that end up in landfills. Be sure to purchase batteries that are appropriate for the equipment you are using. By following charging instructions, you can increase the life of your batteries.

**Bring rechargeable batteries to any store that sells them,** such as a pharmacy, office supply, or hardware store. NY State's Rechargeable Battery law mandates stores that sell rechargeable batteries (or products containing rechargeable batteries) to collect rechargeable batteries for recycling, free of charge. Ask or look for the Call2Recycle box. To prevent the risk of fire, each battery should be individually bagged or the terminals should be taped (boxes in the stores will often have free bags available).

For information about the law, visit [bit.ly/rechbattdec](http://bit.ly/rechbattdec). To find a drop-off location, visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org).

**Bring used rechargeable and lithium or other household batteries to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site or an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Rechargeable and lithium batteries must be separated from other household batteries. To prevent the risk of fire, please tape the terminals or individually bag each battery.

See the last section of this guide for DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site locations. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about upcoming SAFE Disposal Events.

### *Enforcement*

Contact the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation at [bit.ly/tippdec](http://bit.ly/tippdec) or **1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)** if a retailer refuses to accept your rechargeable batteries.

# Gas Cylinders

Do not place gas cylinders such as propane tanks or fire extinguishers in your trash or recycling container. These items can explode in Sanitation compactor trucks and cause serious injury or damage to workers, equipment, and pedestrians. Even if you believe the tank is empty, it may still contain vapors that make it an explosion hazard.

## Propane Tanks

Do not store tanks in your home or near flames and sources of heat.

Exchange your empty propane tank for a full tank at any local propane tank dealer. If you are not exchanging your tank, ask the dealer to dispose of it properly.

Bring used propane tanks to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.



## Fire Extinguishers

The two most common types include carbon dioxide and dry chemical, both of which are not hazardous.

Carbon dioxide extinguishers are refillable and should be refilled after each use. Contact a local fire extinguisher retailer to request that they refill or dispose of your extinguisher.

Dry chemical extinguishers can be recycled once they are emptied and the head has been removed. Follow the National Fire Protection Association's PASS technique to ensure that you have appropriately emptied your fire extinguisher.

Bring used fire extinguishers to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.



# Cleaning and Maintenance Products

Some harmful cleaning and maintenance products have municipal disposal options, as described here.

Highly corrosive liquids (such as hydrofluoric, sulfuric, or muriatic acids) or extremely flammable liquids (such as gasoline) should never be discarded in the municipal waste stream. For disposal, contact an appropriate private hazardous or chemical waste company.

## Paint

Before you buy paint, consider ways to save money, prevent waste, and reduce your exposure to potentially harmful chemicals.



### *Usage Recommendations*

**Use latex paint, rather than oil-based paint.** Latex paint cleans up with just soap and water and does not contain hazardous chemicals. Latex paint that is low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is an environmentally preferable option to consider if you are concerned about indoor odor or air quality.

**Select the right amount of paint for each job.** It takes approximately one gallon of paint to cover 350 square feet of smooth surface. Talk to your local paint retailer or use a paint calculator (see [paintcare.org/calculator.php](http://paintcare.org/calculator.php)) to determine how much paint is needed for your next paint job. Many paint manufacturers also sell sample jars, so you can be sure you like the color before you buy too much paint.

**Use less-toxic paint thinners or strippers.** Avoid thinners or strippers that contain methylene chloride — a potential cancer-causing agent. Thinners or strippers that are low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are also an option. Look for these logos:



**Remove lead paint responsibly.** Never dry scrape or dry sand to remove paint, especially if your home was built before 1960. Prior to its ban in NYC in 1960, lead paint was commonly used in homes. Dust from peeling lead paint is the most common cause of childhood lead poisoning. Children with lead poisoning can develop health, learning, and behavior problems. Before you repaint, repair, or remodel a home, learn about lead-safe work practices and requirements.

For more information on preventing lead poisoning, call **311** or visit the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website at [bit.ly/lead-health](http://bit.ly/lead-health).

### ***Disposal Options***

**Donate, sell, swap, or give away extra paint** to charitable organizations, community groups, and businesses, or online through a materials exchange. Visit [nyc.gov/stuffexchange](http://nyc.gov/stuffexchange) for more information.

**Bring leftover latex paint and spray paint to any DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site.** NYC residents can bring up to five gallons per visit. See the last section of this guide for locations.

**Bring unwanted paint and spray paint to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

**Latex (water-based) and oil-based paint can be dried out and discarded as trash.** Remove lid and use kitty litter, newspaper, or other absorbent material to soak up paint.

**Empty paint containers can be recycled** (see [nyc.gov/recycle](http://nyc.gov/recycle)).



# Cleaning Products

Many household cleaning products contain chemicals that can be dangerous if you inhale them, get them on your skin, or combine them with other cleaners.

**Substitute soap, water, and elbow grease for chemicals.** In many situations, a little extra scrubbing is all that's required to take care of a stain or a dirty corner.

**Consider environmentally preferable cleaners.** Read the label before use because even products made with natural ingredients can pose a danger if used improperly. Look for these third-party certifications:



## Don't use chemicals to unclog pipes and drains.

Use non-chemical techniques, or call your landlord when a drain backs up. Chemicals used to clear drains can be dangerous to you, and their corrosive components can damage plumbing. Use a drain catch to prevent hair and other clogging materials from entering the pipes. Maintain drains regularly by using a plumber's snake.



**Don't forget to recycle.** Most cleaning products are sold in recyclable packaging and must be recycled with your other bottle and can recyclables once empty. However, containers marked "DANGER – CORROSIVE" can't be recycled.

**Carefully handle cleaning products marked "DANGER – CORROSIVE"** such as some drain, toilet, and oven cleaners. Purchase only what you need so you can use up these products completely before discarding the empty container in the trash (not in your recycling bin). Double bag the empty container and mark it "DANGER – not for recycling." If you have leftover product, use paper towels, litter, or absorbent materials to dry out the container.

**Bring harmful cleaning products to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event.** Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

## Pest Control

Many chemicals used to kill pests — insects and rodents — can also be harmful to people. Whenever possible use non-chemical methods for pest control. Basic housekeeping and maintenance can help prevent pests.

### *Prevent Pests and Report Problems*

**Don't leave food sitting out on counters or shelves.** Store groceries in sealed containers or the refrigerator. Regularly sweep floors to remove crumbs. Wash counters, behind appliances, and under the stove top to get rid of food and grease drippings.



**Eliminate sources of water and moisture.** Pests need water to survive. Clean up spills quickly and completely. Repair drips or leaks, and remove sources of standing water.

**Store trash properly.** Keep garbage off the floor in a sealed trash container. Regularly wash containers used for garbage and recycling, as well as the area around them.

**Prevent pests from entering.** Seal cracks and crevices with caulk. Plug wall holes with wire mesh, and use spackle or sealant that hardens. Install a door sweep or weatherstripping to block the space between the floor and the door.



**Check for bugs when buying or renting used products and while traveling.** It's much easier to get rid of a few pests before you have an infestation. Use a flashlight and magnifying glass to look for bed bugs around the areas where you sleep or sit. Visit [nyc.gov/bedbugs](https://www.nyc.gov/bedbugs) to learn more about bed bug identification and prevention.

**Report a rodent problem** by calling **311** or using the Rodent Complaint Form at [nyc.gov/311](https://www.nyc.gov/311). Visit [nyc.gov/rats](https://www.nyc.gov/rats) for more info.



## Safe Pest Removal

If you see a rat or bed bug in your home or building, contact your landlord, management company, or an exterminator immediately. The exterminator should be reputable (a bad exterminator can actually make the problem worse). Visit [nyc.gov/bedbugs](https://nyc.gov/bedbugs) to learn more about bed bug removal.

Use less- or non-toxic pest control products, such as cockroach baits, dusts (such as boric acid), gels, snaps, or boxes. Avoid foggers, bombs, and sprays. When emptying or throwing away a trap, wear rubber gloves or pick it up with a broom and dust pan — don't handle with bare hands.



Use only the amount of product directed, under the conditions specified, and for the purpose listed. Pay particular attention to directions on adequate ventilation and personal protection, and avoid physical contact with pesticide products.

Never use products called “Tres Pasitos” or “Chinese Chalk.” They are dangerous pesticides from other countries that are sold illegally in the U.S. Don't buy or use “Tempo;” it is not intended for use in homes by residents.



Keep children and pets away from areas where pesticides are being used or stored.

Double-bag unwanted pesticides and empty pesticide containers, and place them in the trash. Do not throw them down a trash chute. Do not reuse or recycle.



Bring unused pesticides to an upcoming SAFE Disposal Event. Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal) for details.

## Disposal of Infested Items

Place all mattresses and box springs (regardless of whether or not they are infested) in a plastic bag prior to disposal or recycling, in compliance with Sanitation regulations.

Wrap all infested items in sealed bags or shrink wrap to keep the infestation from spreading.

Place items on the curb close to the time trash is collected by the Department of Sanitation to reduce the possibility of spreading the infestation.

Cut, deface, and label infested items to discourage people from taking them to their homes.

Don't donate items from an infested home.

## Lawn and Garden Care: “Green” Alternatives

You can eliminate the use of fertilizers, weed killers, and pesticides – and still have healthy, attractive lawns and gardens.

**Leave it on the lawn.** When you mow your grass, leave clippings on the lawn instead of raking and bagging them. The clippings decompose and provide nitrogen to the soil, so you can reduce or even eliminate fertilizing.

**Learn to compost.** Leaves, food scraps, garden trimmings, and weeds can all become “garden gold” through composting. Using rich, soil-conditioning compost on lawns and gardens keeps plants healthy naturally, eliminating the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

### **Prevent further infestation of the Asian Longhorned Beetle.**

Residents in Brooklyn and Queens must arrange for a pickup of tree prunings, firewood, and other woody organic debris by the NYC Parks Department. For more information, contact **311** or visit the Parks Department website at: [bit.ly/wood-debris](http://bit.ly/wood-debris).

**Select appropriate plants.** There are many attractive varieties of shrubs and flowers that are resistant to disease and pests. You can also plant grass blends that need less frequent mowing and require less water and fertilizer.

**Use non-toxic products.** Many garden centers and catalogs now sell fertilizers, pesticides, and weed controls that are organic or made with safer ingredients.



# NYC

## HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE

### DROP-OFF

NYC residents may bring these household materials to  
DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Sites:

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#### batteries: automotive



#### batteries: alkaline



**batteries:**  
lithium and rechargeable  
(must tape terminals  
or bag individually)



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**motor oil and  
transmission fluid**  
(up to 10 quarts per visit)



**motor oil filters**  
(up to 2 filters per visit)



**fluorescent bulbs & CFLs**  
(up to 4 feet in length)



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**latex paint**  
(up to 5 gallons per visit)



**mercury devices**  
such as thermostats  
and thermometers  
(up to 2 per visit)



**passenger car tires**  
(up to 4 per visit)



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## Hours of Operation

Every Saturday and the last Friday of every month from 10am to 5pm

Visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://www.nyc.gov/safedisposal) for information about the DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off program.

## Drop-Off Site Locations

**Bronx:** Located in Hunts Point at Farragut Street and the East River, next to the Fulton Fish Market. Enter on Farragut Street, off Food Center Drive.

**Brooklyn:** Located in Bensonhurst at 25th Avenue and Gravesend Bay (next to DSNY Brooklyn District 11 garage and the Adventurers Amusement Park, formerly known as Nellie Bly Amusement Park). From Belt Parkway, eastbound: take exit 5 and head straight on Shore Parkway; turn right on 25th Avenue. From Belt Parkway, westbound: turn left at Bay Parkway, left at Shore Parkway, turn right on 25th Avenue.

**Manhattan:** Located at 74 Pike Slip, between Cherry Street and South Street, under the Manhattan Bridge.

**Queens:** Located in College Point at 30th Avenue, between 120th and 122nd Streets, at the northwest corner of the DSNY Queens District 7 garage. Enter at 30th Avenue off College Point Boulevard; turn left after 122nd Street.

**Staten Island:** Located at the foot of Muldoon Avenue, off the Muldoon Avenue exit of the southbound West Shore Expressway (440), adjacent to the DSNY Staten Island District 3 garage.

## Drop-Off Instructions

**NYC residents must show a valid NY State driver's license** and a vehicle registration with a NYC address. If arriving without a vehicle, NYC residents can provide a picture ID and proof of residency, such as a utility or telephone bill.

**These sites are solely for non-commercial materials** from NYC residents. Materials from a business, industrial, "fee for service," or profit-making activity will not be accepted. Drivers with commercial license plates will not be allowed to enter the drop-off area. Any person attempting to illegally drop off bulk material at these sites may be subject to severe illegal dumping fines and impoundment of their vehicle.

**These facilities may not be immediately visible** since they are generally located within DSNY garages. If you have trouble locating the site, please ask for assistance from a DSNY Garage Foreman or Supervisor.

**Upon arrival, check in with a DSNY official** who will record your name, address, vehicle registration, and what Special Waste you are dropping off.

**These sites operate on a monitored "do-it-yourself" basis.** A DSNY official will instruct residents to empty their Special Wastes into labeled storage containers. Be sure to dress accordingly — for example, sturdy shoes, casual clothing, and work gloves are recommended.

**Residents are expected to deposit their empty paint cans, corrugated cardboard, and any trash into designated containers** for proper recycling or disposal after emptying their Special Waste.

# NYC

## SAFE DISPOSAL EVENTS

SOLVENTS | AUTOMOTIVE | FLAMMABLE | ELECTRONICS

The NYC Department of Sanitation holds SAFE Disposal Events to provide NYC residents with a one-stop method to get rid of many of the potentially harmful household products listed in this guide.

To find an event near you, visit [nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal)

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### What to Bring

#### automotive products



#### personal care items



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#### housewares



#### electronics



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### Tips

- Alkaline batteries and latex (water-based) paint no longer contain harmful materials and can be discarded in the trash.
- Latex paint must be dried out before the empty can is recycled.
- Certain items can't or shouldn't be discarded in the trash or recycling; see [nyc.gov/recycle](https://nyc.gov/recycle) for donating, take-back programs, and other disposal options.
- Syringes and lancets should be clearly labeled and packaged in a "sharps" container or other leak-proof, puncture-resistant container.