

# IT'S TIME FOR

# SPRING CLEANING!

**Begin with the Bin**

BE SMART WITH YOUR RECYCLING & GARBAGE

[www.beginwiththebin.org](http://www.beginwiththebin.org)



It's time for Spring Cleaning! When you're going through your home and trashing all that clutter, take a second look at some of the items you're getting rid of. Before discarding these materials, consider whether they fall into the household hazardous waste (HHW) category. If so, consider taking them to an HHW event or drop-off location.

To help keep the environment clean—and your local waste and recycling workers safe—follow these helpful Spring Cleaning tips! You can find even more tips at [BeginWithTheBin.org](http://BeginWithTheBin.org).



## LIGHT BULBS

Energy-efficiency CFL light bulbs contain mercury and should be managed properly, ideally through HHW events. The EPA recommends storing broken or used CFL bulbs in plastic bags in outside trash bins. Visit [www.BeginWithTheBin.org/cfl](http://www.BeginWithTheBin.org/cfl) to learn more.



## MEDICAL NEEDLES OR SHARPS

Nearly 9 million Americans use needles, syringes or lancets each year, disposing nearly 4 billion of these sharps. Some communities have guidelines for disposing these using approved containers or at HHW collections. **NEVER** place them in recycling bins! Your local recycling plant workers thank you in advance for considering their safety.



## PRESSURIZED CONTAINERS

Are you tossing a used pressurized container? Full or partially full containers should not be tossed in the trash! These can explode under heat or pressure and seriously injure sanitation workers, so bring them to an HHW collection event. Refillable propane tanks can usually be returned to suppliers, and **EMPTY** aerosol containers can be recycled.



## PAINTS

What kind of paint do you have? Thinners, varnishes and oil-based paints should be dropped off at an HHW event. Latex paints are considered nonhazardous and, in most communities, can be thrown away—but recycle the cans! Just mix in cat litter or let paint air-dry before tossing it.



## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

Purchase only the amount of bleach, cleaners or other chemicals that you'll actually use. Recycle empty containers if you can and share extra cleaning products with neighbors before bringing them to an HHW collection event.



## BATTERIES

Battery recycling is preferred and, in some areas, required. Visit [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) for helpful information on how to recycle or dispose of them. Also consider buying rechargeable batteries for continual reusability.



## E-WASTE

Many states have electronic waste laws—does yours? Before trashing old computers, cellphones and TVs, see if they have any value with friends or online buyers. Many communities have e-waste collection events, and some retailers accept used items for recycling.



## PHARMACEUTICALS

Don't flush these down the toilet or drain! Water treatment facilities can't separate these from our water. Did you know that April 26 is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day? Visit [www.justice.gov/dep](http://www.justice.gov/dep) to learn more. Otherwise, safely dispose of medicines in the trash by mixing them with undesirable substances like coffee grounds or cat litter.



## MOTOR OIL

Did you know your used motor oil and filters generally can be recycled, refined and reprocessed to be used again? Consider bringing yours by municipal collection sites, repair shops and garages when ready to dispose of them.



## LAWN CHEMICALS

Consider sharing your extra fertilizer with other hungry plants in your garden or extra pesticides with a neighbor who might have use for them. Before throwing lawn chemicals away, see if there's an HHW collection event in your community.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T  
JUST THROW IT OUT**

Bring your household hazardous waste to a collection event or drop-off in your community. Let's **Begin with the Bin** to keep Spring Cleaning green!

