

The Citizen^{of} Laconia

The voice of New Hampshire's Lakes Region


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Protecting the region's drinking water supply

MEREDITH — Water pollution may not come to mind when you decide to repaint your kitchen or stain your deck; however, oilbased paints and stains, along with many other products, can contaminate the Lakes Region's water supply if disposed of improperly.

In fact, most household products that have "Danger", "Poison", "Corrosive", or "Toxic" printed on the label need to be disposed of at a collection event such as those in the Lakes Region that take place annually.

Examples of other hazardous products include most household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, pool chemicals, and lawn and garden products.



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Items that will not be accepted include latex paints, propane tanks, tires, and alkaline batteries. Check with your local transfer station for proper disposal of those items.

This year, 24 Lakes Region communities are participating in the household hazardous waste collections program to ensure proper and safe disposal of unwanted hazardous products.

On Saturday, July 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, there will be collections in Belmont, Franklin, Gilford, and Meredith. On Saturday, Aug. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, there will be collections in Bristol, Center Ossipee, Laconia, and Moultonborough.

Residents and taxpayers of Alexandria, Andover, Belmont, Bridgewater, Bristol, Center Harbor, Effingham, Franklin, Freedom, Gilford, Gilmanton, Hebron, Hill, Holderness, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Northfield, Ossipee, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Tamworth, and Tilton are eligible to bring their hazardous waste products to the participating facility that is most convenient.

To be assured of disposal, do not wait to come at the last minute; in the rare case that a site fills up or exceeds its budget, the gates may close before noon.

The quantity of hazardous waste accepted from each household is limited to 10 gallons or 50 pounds. Products should be kept in their original containers with all the lids tightly secured. If there is a leak in the container, place it in a larger container and add an absorbent substance such as cat litter or paint hardener. To ensure safe transport, products should be in cardboard boxes in the trunk. That also will ensure a quick drop-off upon arrival.

If heading to Laconia's Public Works Garage for drop-off, check out the Swap Table where residents can drop off containers, have them verified by a certified chemist, and then pick up an item that can be used in their home. It is a great way of using up hazardous products and diverting them from the waste stream.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission initiated the annual collection process 25 years ago. In the past three years, they have collected more than 58,000 gallons of hazardous waste from Lakes Region residents. Additionally, more than 20 miles of fluorescent bulbs and nearly 4,000 compact fluorescent bulbs were collected.

For a more comprehensive list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, as well as maps of the collection sites, see www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp. For further information, call the Lakes Region Planning Commission office at 603-279-8171.

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