



5 Tips for Storing Leftover Household Hazardous Waste

Many of us have leftover household hazardous waste (HHW) products at home, whether it's furniture stripper from your latest upcycling project, or pesticides from your gardening endeavors. Whatever products you have, it's important to store the leftovers safely and correctly.

Follow these five easy steps to create an organized, tidy storage space for your leftover HHW products. Not only will this preserve them for as long as their shelf-life permits, but it will also help keep you and your family safe until you've used up every drop or are ready to take them to a recycling location.

1. Keep HHW containers high and dry

It's best to store your leftover HHW products in a dry, secure, indoor area such as a shed, garage or high up on a shelf in your home. This keeps it out of the way, preserves the labels, and means the container won't get damaged by the elements like it might if you kept it outside. If you have children or pets in your home, it's even more important to keep your containers somewhere high up, away from prying hands or paws. Make sure they're fully sealed before storing them away.

2. Keep containers out of the sun

Avoid storing your HHW leftovers in direct sunlight. Too much sunlight could damage their integrity, leading to the contents spoiling sooner than necessary. Keeping them somewhere shady ensures the product itself, along with the container and label all remain in good condition. Taking this simple precaution is essential should you eventually need to recycle these products—only products in their original, undamaged containers, with intact labels and sealed lid will be [accepted for recycling](#).

3. Don't switch containers

Even if you only have a tiny bit of your HHW product left, it's important to keep products stored in their original containers, and to leave the labels alone. Again, this is especially important for when you recycle them, as it means recycling locations can identify each product and ensure everything is managed safely and correctly depending on ingredients and type.

4. If the label comes off, put it back on

Sometimes the label might come off your HHW container, fully or partially. If this happens, try to glue or tape it back on. Don't rely on your memory to tell you what the product is— err on the side of caution and make sure they're fully and correctly labelled, in case it's a while until you come back to use them again.

5. Store bleach, peroxide, and other chlorinated cleaners separately from other chemicals

Products containing bleach are perfectly safe to use, as long as you follow the instructions on their labels. However, as the label likely indicates, to avoid causing an unwanted chemical reaction, you shouldn't mix these products with anything except plain water. That's why the safest option is to keep them away from all other chemicals, even when they're being stored. If you're unsure, check the label – many products will indicate if they contain bleach. Yet another reason why it's important to keep those labels on!

Remember, if your HHW is nearing its expiry date, or you've run out of uses for it, the safest thing to do is drop it off at your nearest recycling location. Product Care Recycling is dedicated to responsibly managing end-of-life products and diverting them from landfills and waterways to protect the environment. Product Care provides collection networks for household hazardous waste in [British Columbia](#), [Manitoba](#) and [Ontario](#). Accepted products vary by province. View your province's page for full details.