

San Mateo County Health: How to Safely Prepare and Transport Household Hazardous Waste



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

Household Hazardous Waste Program
(650) 372-6200 | smchealth.org/hhw

SAFELY TRANSPORT HHW

Minimize the *hazard* in Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Prior to your HHW drop-off appointment, carefully review the following rules for how to safely prepare and transport your HHW.

HHW LOAD LIMITS

The [State Department of Toxic Substances Control](#) limits transport of HHW to 10 gallons (or 50 pounds) of waste. Make one appointment per vehicle for each 10 gallons (or 50 pounds) of hazardous waste. HHW technicians will perform a “load check” to ensure you follow transport guidelines. Excessive loads, or [materials the facility does not accept](#), may result in your waste being rejected.

HOW TO PACKAGE YOUR HHW

The right way. Place containers inside cardboard boxes or sturdy plastic containers.





HOW NOT TO PACKAGE HHW

Do not package and transport waste in plastic garbage bags. Plastic bags prevent a clear view of materials. They create instability, increasing the likelihood of materials to spill and mix, creating a safety hazard for our HHW technicians.



HOW TO PACKAGE A LEAKING CONTAINER

Enclose the leaking container in a clear plastic bag, secure the bag tightly with strong tape, and place inside a cardboard box or sturdy plastic container.

