

Once and DONE! Don't Miss Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day This Year!

On Saturday, May 8th, from 8 am - 4:30 pm, Recology will co-sponsor Jackson County's yearly residential Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event. With COVID-19 sanitation standards and social distancing protocols in place, drop-off will take place at Rogue Transfer & Recycling in White City at 8001 Table Rock Road. Unwanted chemicals, household batteries, fuels, mercury thermostats, and fluorescent light ballasts are just a few examples of all that will be accepted. For a comprehensive list of what's accepted, and especially what's not accepted (household paint and unknown chemicals, for example), please review the information available online at <https://roquedisposal.com/transfer-station/hazardous-waste>.

Businesses are required to submit an application to participate one day earlier on May 7th. The businesses-only event is historically always held on the Friday before the Saturday residential event. Unlike the residential event, business participation is not free, and hazardous waste will be charged at the rates listed on the waste inventory sheet of their application. Business applications are available online at the following link - <https://roquedisposal.com/assets/documents/CEG-Full-Application-Form-OCT-2020.pdf> .

New COVID-19 safety protocols require some changes, including that all participants are asked to now remain in their vehicles once on site. Residents can expect trained hazardous waste personnel to approach their vehicle and remove unwanted waste. Wherever possible, items to be disposed of should be stored in the trunk or rear section of the participant's vehicle. Once in the unloading area, event staff will ask that vehicle engines be turned off and that drivers open their trunk or pop their hatch. Event staff will take care of the rest.

In Jackson County alone - to properly process upwards of 45,000 total pounds of unwanted hazardous waste - costs average out to be a whopping \$125 per vehicle. According to 2021 event participation predictions, well over 500 vehicles will attend and have their tab for \$125 worth of unwanted hazardous waste paid for by the three Jackson County waste and recycling haulers - Recology, Southern Oregon Sanitation and Rogue Disposal. Additionally - unlike the standard in prior years - the traditional \$5 co-pay will be waived and paid for by the same haulers.

To avoid disappointment on drop-off day, it's important that residents and businesses alike remember that not all hazardous wastes are accepted at this event. Paint, for instance, isn't allowed because the State of Oregon already has the PaintCare program - a household paint take-back program designed to ensure unwanted paint is recycled instead of being haphazardly dumped down waterways and drains, or tossed into the general waste stream. This program allows leftover paint to be taken back to participating stores, such as Miller Paint, Sherman Williams and Ashland General Hardware here in Ashland. For more information on PaintCare, visit www.PaintCare.org .

Further examples of common materials that will not be accepted are: medical waste, fluorescent light tubes, biological waste, asbestos, antifreeze, propane tanks, explosives, ammunition,

industrial waste, radioactive materials and all unknown wastes. These materials are often not accepted because other take-back programs for them already exist.

In addition to the dedicated volunteers who generously give a portion of their weekend to make this event possible, Clean Harbors Environmental Services is the company that has been contracted to provide their on-site hazardous waste environmental services this year. For more information about Clean Harbors, including info about their hazardous waste service process, please visit www.cleanharbors.com .