

Household Hazardous Waste Event Conservation Corner April 2019

Spring has sprung, and you might be feeling pulled to check out the status of your garage and storage areas. Are unwanted items like cleaning supplies, paint thinners, or weed killers just taking up space? If you're ready to say goodbye to those chemicals, you should be familiar with one of the only ways to responsibly dispose of them here in Jackson County. (HINT: these liquids should never be poured down your drain).

Annually, on the first Saturday of May, Ashland's Trash and Recycling hauler, Recology, co-sponsors a residential Household Hazardous Waste event at the Rogue Transfer & Recycling Depot off Table Rock Road in White City from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Residents can take items such as unwanted chemicals, household batteries, fuels, mercury thermostats, florescent light ballasts, and much more. Businesses may *apply* to participate on the Friday before the residential event. While the cost to the regional sponsors of the event is a whopping \$125 per vehicle, residents who attend will only pay a \$5 co-pay.

It's important to note that not *all* chemicals are accepted. Paint, for instance, is not allowed because the State of Oregon already has a program in place called PaintCare, which allows residents to take unwanted paint back to participating paint stores, like Miller Paint, Sherman Williams, and Ashland General Hardware. Medical waste, propane tanks, explosives, ammunition, radioactive materials are also some examples of items that are *not* accepted.

One unique feature of this annual event is the Re-Use Table, which gives "still-usable" hazardous waste a second chance. Experienced site chemists will be on hand all day to sort through everything that comes in – setting the carefully chosen, safely packaged items aside on a special table. These items are yours to take – FREE – so stop by to check out what's available.

For more information about this year's Residential Household Hazardous Waste event on Saturday, May 4th, or the Commercial event on Friday, May 3rd, please visit Recology Ashland's website at www.Recology.com/Recology-Ashland or the event Host's website at www.RogueDisposal.com. This yearly Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event is your one annual chance to toss your toxins!

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