

# Disposing of household hazardous waste



Somerset  
Waste  
Partnership

 recycle for Somerset

## What is household hazardous waste?



Some of the waste you might produce in your home needs to be handled carefully to avoid harm to people and the environment. This is classified as hazardous waste.

Legally you are expected to dispose of your hazardous waste in a responsible manner. To help you all Somerset's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have a disposal point for most household hazardous waste.

Some examples of materials that are classified as hazardous are:-

- Lead based paint
- DIY chemicals like paint thinner
- Garden chemicals like pesticides
- Asbestos
- Antifreeze

Some materials like fireworks and explosives cannot be left at HWRCs and need to be taken to your local police station. Others, like asbestos and plasterboard, require special handling and storage and can only be taken to seven of Somerset's HWRCs (see sections on Asbestos and Plasterboard for the list of sites that take them).

## Cement Bonded Asbestos

**Asbestos** was commonly used as a building material and for cladding until it was banned in 1992. Asbestos can give off harmful dust particles and fibres. It is a material that should be handled with care:

**Handling** Use gloves and masks. Do Not break, drill, scrub, saw. Do not use power tools as they create dust – use hand tools if necessary. Double wrap in strong bags (unless it is too big for bags in which case leave whole).

Damp down the working area with water to limit airborne particles. Remaining fibres should be cleared up with a damp cloth which should be included with the asbestos for disposal.

Seven HWRCs in Somerset will accept asbestos from your own home. These are:

**Bridgwater; Frome;  
Highbridge;  
Minehead; Street;  
Taunton; Yeovil**



On arrival let one of the site staff know you have asbestos – they will then direct you to the correct container. Staff at the recycling centre **will not assist** with unloading of this material. Place the asbestos (complete with bags/wrapping) in the container.

For commercial or industrial asbestos you must contact a commercial waste management company. A list of approved suppliers can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)).

If you are unable to take asbestos to one of the designated HWRCs charged collections can be arranged. For further information call Somerset County Council customer services on 0845 3459188.

## Fluorescent tubes and long life bulbs

contain small amounts of mercury. If they are not disposed of carefully, over time the combined amount of mercury being released into the atmosphere could pose health risks. These can be safely recycled at any Somerset HWRC.



**Plasterboard** buried in landfill sites produces potent gases when it breaks down. Under new legislation it must now be kept out of landfill. Facilities for collecting plasterboard are provided at Frome, Priorswood, Street, Highbridge, Saltlands, Yeovil and Williton HWRCs. If you have large amounts please call ahead to make sure there is space available.

**Gas canisters** can be refilled so they should be returned to the manufacturer or supplier for this purpose wherever possible. If you cannot find a supplier they will be accepted at HWRCs. Please ask site staff to show you where to deposit them.



**Pesticides, acids, lead based paint and other potentially harmful chemicals** - If you think you may have hazardous household waste to dispose of please ask for assistance from site staff. These materials can then be safely stored in the site safe.

**Car Parts** - Under waste legislation any vehicle part is classed as industrial waste, even if it is privately owned. Somerset Waste Partnership will however allow the following to be deposited at Household Waste Recycling Centres:



- **Car batteries**



- **Used engine oil (securely sealed – ask site staff to show you where to take it)**



- **Car tyres – up to 5 per household per year**

No other car parts are accepted at the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Please look up your local scrap metal merchant in the telephone directory.

**Electrical Items** - Some electrical items like TV's and computer monitors may contain harmful chemicals and care should be taken when disposing of them. Avoid breaking if possible and leave at the collection point on site.

**Household batteries** - contain harmful chemicals and should be separated from other refuse and deposited at the HWRC collection point for safe disposal.



**Explosives, ammunition and fireworks** should be securely wrapped and taken to a police station for disposal. This is the only way you can dispose of these items – **Do Not take them to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.**



**Medicines and pharmaceuticals** can be disposed of at many chemists and doctors surgeries. Please keep in the original packaging. If you need to regularly dispose of medicines or pharmaceuticals you may qualify for our clinical waste collection service (contact your district council for details).



## Commercial Waste

Please do not bring commercial waste to Household Waste Recycling Centres – it will not be accepted. Look in your local classified directory under Waste for collection companies. Many businesses are reducing the costs of waste disposal by recycling more. For further information visit [www.recycleatwork.org.uk/](http://www.recycleatwork.org.uk/) or [www.wasterecycling.org.uk](http://www.wasterecycling.org.uk).

*It is against the law to dispose of commercial waste at an HWRC. Penalties for illegal tipping of waste include significant fines and/or imprisonment. CCTV cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operate at all of the Somerset HWRC's.*

What hazardous waste can you take to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre?

### **At all Household Waste Recycling Centres ✓**

- ✓ Household chemicals including gardening, DiY and engine fluids.
- ✓ Fluorescent tubes and long life lightbulbs.
- ✓ Electrical items.
- ✓ Household batteries, toner cartridges, mobile phones.
- ✓ Car batteries, tyres and engine oil.
- ✓ Gas cannisters (if cannot be returned to supplier).

### **At some Household Waste Recycling Centres !**

- ! **Cement bonded asbestos** can be taken to Frome; Highbridge; Minehead; Priorswood (Taunton); Saltlands (Bridgwater); Street; Yeovil only.
- ! **Plasterboard** can be taken to Frome ; Highbridge; Priorswood (Taunton); Saltlands (Bridgwater); Street; Yeovil and Williton only.

### **Do not bring to Household Waste Recycling Centres X**

- X Explosives, fireworks or ammunition should be handled with care and taken to your local police station for disposal.
- X Medicines and clinical waste can be returned to many surgeries and chemists (please check first) or, if you have a regular need, contact your district council for details of the free clinical waste collection service.
- X Any commercial waste.

## Household Waste Recycling Centres

|                     |   |              |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| Bridgwater          | Saltlands Avenue, Chilton Trinity TA6 3JG | 01278 444877 |
| Castle Cary         | Dimmer Lane BA7 7NR                       | 01963 351725 |
| Chard (Opens 2009)  | Beeching Close TA20 1BB                   |              |
| Chard (Closes 2009) | Chaffcombe Road, TA20 1RP                 | 01460 61337  |
| Cheddar             | Wedmore Road, BS27 3EB                    | 01934 744916 |
| Coleford            | Newbury Lane, BA3 5RU                     | 01373 813515 |
| Crewkerne           | Blacknell Lane, TA18 7HE                  | 01460 78284  |
| Dulcote             | Dulcote Hill, BA5 3PZ                     | 01749 670973 |
| Dulverton           | Brushford Road Depot, TA22 9AA            | 01398 323615 |
| Frome               | Manor Furlong, Manor Road, BA11 4RN       | 01373 453622 |
| Highbridge          | Isleport Park, Bennett Road TA9 4PW       | 01278 784419 |
| Middlezoy           | A361 west of Greylake, TA7 9BP            | 01823 698165 |
| Minehead            | Mart Road, TA24 5BJ                       | 01643 707894 |
| Somerton            | Bancombe Road Ind Estate, TA11 6SB        | 01458 274643 |
| Street              | Farm Road (A39), BA16 0BB                 | 01458 840076 |
| Taunton             | Crown Ind Estate, Priorswood TA21 9HW     | 01823 338615 |
| Wellington          | Poole Brickworks, Nynhead TA21 9HW        | 01823 661617 |
| Williton            | Roughmoor Ind Estate, TA4 4RA             | 01984 632221 |
| Yeovil              | Artillery Road, Lufton Estate, BA22 8RP   | 01935 411151 |

Open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.  
9am to 5pm (October to April inclusive)/9am to 7pm (May to September inclusive)

For more information about domestic and commercial hazardous waste visit  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Working together for equalities

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language  
please contact us on 01823 625700



For more information about recycling and waste in Somerset visit  
[www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

Somerset Waste Partnership manages household recycling  
and waste services on behalf of all local authorities in Somerset.



Viridor Waste Management operate Somerset's HWRCs  
on behalf of Somerset Waste Partnership.

