

Frequently Asked Questions About a HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY (HHWD)

What is a HHWD?

A HHWD is a specific, planned day when residents may drop off certain hazardous materials from their homes for collection. These events are run under rules and guidelines of the NH Department of Environmental Services, and are usually performed by an independent hazardous waste company. Having an independent company handle most aspects of the waste collection is the most efficient way to conduct a HHWD because of their experience in identifying, sorting, storing, and transporting the materials.

Why have a HHWD?

This is the most important question! Because of increasing concerns about toxic materials ending-up in our ground water and air, attempts have been made to reduce or eliminate these hazardous materials from the regular trash stream. While most toxic particles are filtered from the air of our incinerated trash, not all of the most hazardous ones are. The same is true for trash in landfills; not all toxic matter is guaranteed to stay out of ground water. Many of these materials are corrosive, flammable and/or toxic, and should not be dumped in septic systems or sewers. By eliminating the higher risk materials, we reduce our health risks.

Who can drop off HHW?

Only residents may drop off HHW at a collection event. Businesses should already have proper disposal plans in place for their hazardous wastes and are not allowed in a HHWD.

How much does it cost?

There is no cost to the Loudon resident. The approximate total cost to the Town is \$5,000.00 for a half-day (4 hour) event. The expense is mostly due to the need of having certified waste handlers present, who will be responsible for identifying, handling, storing and transporting these materials. It is possible to offset some of the cost with grant monies. However, the applications need to be in nearly a year in advance to be considered. If future HHWD's are approved, grants could reduce the Town's cost by 10% to 20%, especially if we are able to combine our event with another town. Most people involved with previous HHWD events suggest keeping the first one as simple as possible to more easily evaluate its effectiveness.

When would it be held?

HHWD's are typically held in either the spring or fall, to coincide with seasonal household "clean-outs". Loudon would probably schedule their first HHWD in September of 2008. Notices would be posted well in advance of the event in the Ledger, Concord Monitor, the Town website, etc. A list of acceptable materials and other related information would be included.

How do I participate?

Our HHWD would probably be held on a Saturday morning at the Transfer Station. Residents would simply need to bring only the allowable hazardous items (basically household cleaners, anti-freeze, paint thinner, old gasoline, oil-based paint, etc.), and follow instructions from the waste handlers. Proof of residency may be required.