

May 2019

Question #11 – Hazardous Waste

Dear Trish and Tabitha,

My husband insists on doing his own oil changes. It's great and all but the problem we have is an abundance of waste motor oil accumulating in our garage. I don't want to throw it in the garbage as I heard that the containers could collapse in the truck when compacted and spray all over the garbage truck driver, or leak all over our clean roads AND it is bad for the environment if disposed of in non-hazardous waste landfills. Can you help me out?

Sincerely,

Hazardous Hanna, Cayuga

Dear HH,

Thanks for the great question and I am happy to tell you that you are in luck! Coming up on Saturday May 25 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., we are hosting our 1st **residential** hazardous waste, no-charge, drop-off event of the year at the Cayuga Secondary School (emphasis on the residential as we do NOT accept these types of wastes from businesses). Don't worry – these materials are managed very carefully by a professional company. They wear protective equipment for safe handling and ensure the materials are offloaded properly so they don't spill and leave a mess for the students coming to school on Monday.

Back to your question – as long as we can identify your waste oil, which means bringing it to us in original containers, then we can take it! Please keep in mind that we do have a limit on the quantity you may bring us, no more than 20 litres per vehicle. If you threw away those original containers, don't fret yet! You can put the oil in other containers like plastic pails but it is harder for the waste company to identify these materials so they *may* end up charging us more for disposal. I do want to highlight one more thing... please don't bring the material to us in large containers that one person cannot easily offload as we cannot take it. You can use these tips as a rule of thumb for other hazardous materials you may find around your home too! As for other acceptable material types, we can pretty much take anything with the exception of PCB waste (including PCB ballasts), ammunition, fireworks and other explosive wastes.

Now that I have informed you of when/how/what you may bring to us, I have to tell you what we do with these materials after we collect them. Believe it or not, in 2018, 96% of the material Haldimand residents brought us was RECYCLED into materials that may be used again and only 4% was landfilled (be it, in a secured hazardous waste landfill) or incinerated! Not only did we divert that much waste from regular landfills, which by the way are NOT designed to take hazardous wastes because of the things these wastes can do to our water and air, but we also received money back from industry to fund our program. Last year 38% of the money we spent on the program was recovered through industry funding. I don't know about you but funding is a beautiful word to me... a thousand times better than using our hard earned tax paying dollars to fund the entire program, am I right?

And to top off this wonderful article about Haldimand's hazardous waste, I must tell you that you can also bring us your electronic waste, which we recycle. We also receive money back for these materials which help off-set program costs. Both hazardous waste and electronics may be dropped off at no charge, this service is included in your taxes.

Well HH, I hope I helped you out with your question (and maybe others you had but didn't ask yet). Keep 'em coming! Please download the Recycle Coach App for recycling and garbage information (like schedule disruptions, special drop off days, etc). And for others, if you have any burning trash questions, please feel free to send them to our NEW email address: waste@haldimandcounty.on.ca!

Sincerely,
Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha