

Vermont Household Hazardous Waste EPR Law

Covered Products

The Vermont Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law ([Act 58 of 2023](#)) requires manufacturers of “covered household hazardous products” to provide free statewide collection of covered products.

What is a covered household hazardous product?

A “covered household hazardous product” is a consumer product offered for retail sale in Vermont that meets the following characteristics:

- a. The product must be a consumer product (defined as products regularly used or purchased to be used for personal, family, or household purposes), **and**
- b. The product must be contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale; **and** the product must meet either of the following:
 - I. The product or a component of the product is a hazardous waste under subchapter 2 of the [Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations](#) regardless of the status of the generator (generator is the person who generates the waste brought for collection, it is not the manufacturer in this instance) of the hazardous waste; **or**
 - II. The product is a gas cylinder. See below for details on gas cylinders.

Below are categories of products that may be considered “covered” under Vermont’s HHW EPR law. These products often contain warning labels with words including, “caution, toxic, danger, hazard, warning, poisonous, reactive, corrosive, ignitable (flammable).” This list may not be inclusive of all possible covered products, and not all products within product categories may be considered “covered”.

- Aerosols (flammable or toxic)
- Automotive products and cleaners
- Cleaning products
- Degreasers
- Fabric dye
- Fire extinguishers (handheld single-use and rechargeable up to 50lbs water capacity)
- Furniture strippers
- Glues and adhesives
- Grout/masonry cleaners
- Hair spray and other hair products (flammable)
- Lamp kerosene
- Lighter fluid including butane lighters
- Lubricants
- Marine, auto, traffic, and road paints
- Marine and road flares
- Metal polishes, cleaners, etching solutions
- Motor oil in its original container
- Nail polish and nail polish remover (flammable)
- Nicotine vaping devices
- Non-bleach corrosive cleaners
- Paint thinners, solvents, and removers
- Pre-mixed fuel plus oil
- Rug/upholstery cleaner
- Rust remover
- Spray Foam
- Spray paint
- Tar and bug remover
- Gas cylinders:
 - Non refillable Helium, spray foam insulation tanks, CO₂, or other flammable pressurized gas (up to 50 pounds water capacity. Medical or industrial grade not covered)
 - Small Propane up to one pound (refillable and non-refillable)

Manufacturers of products are obligated to determine whether their products are covered as defined in this statute. Manufacturers can contact the ANR-DEC, Vermont Solid Waste Program (802-828-1138, [VTrecycles.com](#)) if they would like assistance determining if a product is “covered.”

What products are NOT covered by the HHW EPR law?

Products that are required to be registered with the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Pesticide Registration Law are exempt from the HHW EPR law, such as:

- a. Pesticides
- b. Pool and Hot Tub Cleaners
- c. Insect Repellents
- d. Turf Products, and
- e. Cleaning Products containing Bleach with antimicrobial claims.

All AAFM-registered pesticide products are not covered under HHW EPR law but may be collected with other HHW products. VT AAFM uses manufacturer registration fees to defray pesticide collection costs.

Other products not covered by the law—some of which may have existing EPR programs—include:

- a. Any product sold only for industrial or business to business use;
- b. A product not contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale;
- c. Primary and Rechargeable Batteries*;
- d. Mercury-Containing Lamps and Thermostats*;
- e. Architectural Paint and Primers*;
- f. Covered Electronic Devices*;
- g. Pharmaceutical Drugs (those accepted in Vermont's [Drug Disposal Program](#), including pills, liquids, capsules, ointments and lotions, whether prescription or over the counter);
- h. Citronella Candles;
- i. Flea and Tick Collars;
- j. Any products intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled on, sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part of a human for cleansing, moisturizing, sun protection, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering appearance, unless designated as a hazardous material or a hazardous waste by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Note that **empty covered household hazardous product containers** are not collected by municipal HHW collection programs, therefore there is no cost to manufacturers for their management. However, empty pressurized gas cylinders are collected by HHW collection programs and manufacturers are obligated to reimburse for their proper management.

*For more information on Vermont's EPR programs, visit Vermont's "Special Recycling" EPR program page.

Additional Resources:

[VT HHW EPR web page](#)

[Resources for determining Pesticide Registration Status](#)

[VT Department of Health Drug Disposal Program](#)

[VT Hazardous Waste Management Regulations](#)

Solid Waste Management Program
802-828-1138
www.VTrecycles.com

