

Abandoned Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at Transfer Stations & Drop-Offs

As part of a Facility Management Plan, all transfer stations should have a process for dealing with abandoned Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) because a customer might leave a hazardous material at a transfer station without staff knowing. When hazardous or suspected hazardous materials are found, follow the procedures below to ensure safe handling and temporary storage of these materials before they are transferred to a permanent HHW facility for proper disposal as soon as possible.

Please note that HHW should not be accepted from customers unless a transfer station is permitted to do so. Any unpermitted transfer station who collects and stores HHW onsite, is considered out of compliance and could receive a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV).



When abandoned Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is discovered:

1. Notify the supervisor and/or trained staff as soon as possible.
2. Place the HHW in a secondary containment, like a plastic bin or bucket, and put a lid on it. Do not open or mix materials from separate containers.
3. Set the HHW aside, under cover, in a secure, vented area out of the way so it doesn't get knocked over or accidentally disposed with trash. Do not put it in a location where it could be close to heat or someone smoking.
4. Take it as soon as possible to a permanent HHW facility.

To avoid this situation in the future, a transfer station should:

- Have signage indicating that HHW is not accepted at the transfer station but is accepted at specific events and year-round permanent HHW facilities - find local information at 802recycles.com.

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- Provide outreach materials such as the “[Free Special Recycling](#)” brochure which lists collection locations of paint, electronics, batteries, mercury-containing thermostats and light bulbs. This is often the HHW people want to get rid of and don't know they can do it for free at collection locations all year round.
- Have a written plan to bring abandoned HHW to the closest permanent facility (find local information at [802recycles.com](#)) or hazardous waste contractor for proper disposal in order to remove it from the site as soon as possible.

Train all staff members on these basic steps if abandoned HHW is found:

- Notify supervisor immediately,
- Place in secondary containment,
- Store temporarily out of the way in a vented area under cover, and
- Bring the HHW to the nearest HHW facility as soon as possible.



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