

## Minimizing Household Waste

Each American creates between 4 and 5.5 pounds of waste daily. That's a lot of trash. Finding new places to stash the trash is difficult and expensive.



Trash that ends up as litter harms water bodies and wildlife.

**Reduce**  
**Reuse**  
**Recycle**

There's a reason those familiar words are listed in that order. That is the order of importance of actions in dealing with waste.

**Reduce** needless consumption, and waste is greatly reduced. Consider purchases with the end of use in mind.

**Reuse** items—or donate them where they may be used by another person.

**Recycle** what can't be reused. Discard only what can't be reused or recycled.

**Recycle food waste:** compost it along with yard waste.

## Reduce

Avoid small individual packages of products or consumables. Of course, don't buy large quantities if food would spoil before it could be used.

Online purchases often arrive with large amounts of packaging for non-breakable items.

Stop junk mail deliveries. You can do this at <https://dmachoice.thedma.org/register.php>

Water bottles are an enormous fraction of the waste stream. The USA has the safest water in the world. Buy a durable water bottle and fill it at the tap.

## Reuse

Reusable shopping bags last a long time, are easier to carry and protect items better. They also save energy and resources and prevent litter.

Towels, rags and sponges used for clean-ups can be washed and reused. Inexpensive cloth napkins last for years.

Leftover glass jars are excellent food storage containers. They are more durable than plastic bags, leak less, reduce odors in the fridge and are impervious to moths in the pantry.

Invest in rechargeable batteries and a battery recharger.

Donate used clothing and furniture to charities.



## Recycle

Recycling programs vary according to markets, materials recovery facilities and municipalities. Make sure you know what is accepted by your recycling center.

In general, materials recycled include paper, glass food containers, some plastics, and metals.

Requirements for separating or co-mingling recyclables also vary. Food waste contaminating materials may cause rejection.

Electronics such as computers and TVs may be recycled at specialized facilities. Look for a facility near you or call your Town or Village office for assistance in locating one.

**BUY RECYCLED PRODUCTS.** If you don't buy recycled, you're not really recycling.

**Recycle Food Waste** by composting plant materials, egg shells and yard waste. The resulting compost will make your gardens bloom! Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for more information about composting.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Examples of HHW include oil-based paints, pool supplies, pesticides, automotive fluids, home hobby chemicals, and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs).

Unfortunately, paint, paint thinner, used oil and other automotive fluids are exactly the kinds of materials most likely to be discarded improperly.

Dumping hazardous materials into a storm drain or road ditch is not only harmful to the environment, it is illegal.

Used oil can be returned to any business that sells more than 5 gallons of oil in a year. They must accept it, free of charge, and will recycle it. Used oil doesn't have to be returned to the place of purchase.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days are organized by municipalities, landfills and other groups to safely collect and manage hazardous materials.

These events are announced well in advance and typically require pre-registration so that the types and amounts of hazardous waste can be properly received and handled.

Call your municipal office to learn the date of Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

## Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition Members

Town of Victor  
Town of Farmington  
Town of Macedon  
Town of Ontario  
Town of Walworth  
Village of Victor  
Wayne County Highway Department  
Ontario County Highway Department  
Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District



[www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org)

**Ontario-Wayne  
Stormwater Coalition  
480 North Main Street  
Canandaigua NY 14424  
585-396-1450**

# Managing & Minimizing Household Waste



***Protecting Water  
Reducing Pollution***