

Common Household Wastes

A Guide for Renters

Batteries

Batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when batteries are improperly disposed of. Many of these heavy metals can be reclaimed when batteries are recycled. Dry cell, rechargeable, nickel-cadmium or lithium, can all be recycled at Snohomish County Transfer stations.



Pet Waste

Did you know that pet waste contains many harmful microorganisms and bacteria that can live for as long as four years if not picked up? Let's keep our environment happy and healthy with these easy steps:

1. Scoop the poop
2. Put it in a plastic bag
3. Place it in the trash
4. Wash your hands



Unwanted or Expired Medications

If you have unwanted or expired medications, disposal is free at several locations. Visit www.med-project.org to learn how to properly package your meds for disposal and find a free drop-box near you.



Fats, Oils and Grease

Fats, oils and grease are found in common foods such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, sauces and food scraps. If you pour them down the drain or into your garbage disposal, fats, oils and grease will build up over time by sticking to your side sewer. This could eventually cause an expensive backup into your home or our natural water system.

Here are four simple ways to help prevent sewer backups:

- 1 Pour cooled fats, oils and greases into a covered disposable container and throw in into your garbage. Never pour fats, oils or grease down sinks or toilets.
- 2 Soak up remaining oils and grease.
- 3 Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps, fats, oils and grease into your compost or trash.
- 4 Avoid putting fats, oils and grease down your garbage disposal. Use sink strainers to catch remaining food waste while washing dishes.

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste materials are just that: hazardous. Not only can they be dangerous for you and your health, they are dangerous to the environment too, and should never go into your regular trash or down a drain. If you have household hazardous waste such as automotive products, pesticides, fertilizer and cleaners

- Try to find a use for them
- Never put them down a storm drain or dump them on the ground
- Take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Station located at:
*3434 McDougall Ave
Everett, WA 98201*



www.fixcarleaks.org

Did you know that even a single drop of oil on your driveway can mean a shorter lifespan for your car? Plus, leaks are the largest polluters of Puget Sound, so it's also having a huge impact on the health of our local waters.

Visit www.fixcarleaks.org to find an auto repair shop near you that can help identify the leak and offer a discount to get it fixed.

Sharps



Due to Washington State Law, sharps must be kept out of the waste stream and are not accepted for disposal at Snohomish County solid waste facilities. Used syringes, needles and lancets do not belong in the garbage or recycling. They can injure garbage collectors and other workers.

Used needles require special handling and disposal in order to protect public health and the environment. A special "Sharps Collector" is available for purchase from some local pharmacies and other service providers. The containers are puncture-proof plastic with a lid and can be returned to a participating pharmacy for safe disposal.

