

# Detox your home

## Household chemical disposal service

### Frequently Asked Questions

Customer Questions	Responses
What does it cost?	The service is FREE
Do I have to live in the municipality?	No. All collections are open to any Victorian resident.
Can I dispose of chemicals that I use for my business?	No. The service is only available for the disposal of household chemicals. Any business seeking to dispose of chemicals used for commercial or industrial purposes should contact a chemical collection service provider (look in the Yellow Pages or contact the Victorian Waste Management Assoc).
How long will I have to wait?	In 90% of cases, less than 20 minutes. But it could be longer depending on the time of day and the number of residents who turn up.
Do you accept...?	<i>See the list on the other side of this sheet.</i> If still in doubt, contact Sustainability Victoria on 1800 353 233.
What do I do if I'm not sure what a chemical is?	Label it as "Unknown Chemical". Do not guess the chemical's name.
Is there a limit to how much I can bring?	No. However, the service is only for household chemicals. Chemicals used for farm, commercial or industrial processes will not be accepted. The maximum acceptable weight or size of any single container is 20 kg or 20 litres.
How do I get the chemicals to the collection site?	Using your car or trailer. If you don't have a car, perhaps friends, family or neighbours can help. There are a number of safety precautions you should observe when transporting chemicals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Travel with your car windows down if carrying flammable or odorous materials</li> <li>* Keep chemicals in their original containers</li> <li>* Ensure lids are tightly fitted. Protect taps on drums so that the tap does not break off</li> <li>* Place containers of liquids in a tray or plastic bucket so that they do not spill or fall</li> <li>* Pack powders and solids securely</li> <li>* Keep corrosive chemicals, such as battery acid, away from poisons</li> <li>* Keep oxidising agents, such as peroxide, away from all other materials</li> <li>* Double-wrap old liquid containers in plastic bags to prevent leaking</li> </ul>
Why don't you do a street collection like you do with hard waste?	Chemicals pose a safety hazard if left on the street awaiting collection.
What happens to the chemicals?	They are immediately sorted, placed in sealed drums and transported to a specialist waste treatment facility. Every effort is made to reuse chemicals or to recycle them for other purposes. As a last resort, a small amount of chemicals will be stored in secure landfills, in accordance with EPA Victoria requirements.
I've missed the collection. What can I do with my chemicals?	There are various locations where you can take some household chemicals all year round – <i>see details on the back of this sheet.</i> Alternatively, you can take them to another Detox Your Home collection – ring 1800 353 233 or visit <a href="http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au">www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au</a> .
When will the next collection be?	In this municipality, not for at least a year. However, there may be collections in nearby municipalities that you can use. Ring 1800 353 233 or visit <a href="http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au">www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au</a> .

**Does Detox Your Home accept...? If still in doubt, ring 1800 353 233**

Acetone	YES
Acids and alkalis	YES
Aerosol cans (full or empty)	YES
Ammunition	NO - see Note 9
Anti-freeze	YES
Asbestos	NO - see Note 6
Batteries - automotive	YES - see Note 3
Batteries - household (rechargeable, mercury, NiCd, mobile phones)	YES - see Note 1
Battery Acid	YES
Brake fluid	YES
Car body filler/ repair products, waxes	YES
Cleaners – bathroom, household, kitchen, drain, ammonia based	YES
Commercial Cleaners	NO - see Note 7
Coolant	YES
Depilatories	YES
Detergents, disinfectants & drain cleaners	YES
Empty paint tins and chemical drums	NO - see Note 5
Farm chemicals	NO - see Note 8
Fertiliser	YES
Fibreglass resins (not mixed)	YES
Fire extinguishers	YES
Floor-care products & waxes	YES
Fluorescent tubes	YES - see Note 1
Fuels – petrol, diesel, kerosene	YES
Fungicide	YES
Gas cylinders (domestic - 4.5 - 9kg)	YES - see Note 1
Glues – water-based & solvents	YES

Hair care products & hairspray	YES
Herbicides	YES
Industrial chemicals	NO - see Note 7
Insect spray/pesticides	YES
Lubricants - automotive	YES - see Note 1
Medicines/Pharmaceuticals	YES - see Note 4
Mothballs	YES
Nail polish & remover	YES
Oil - motor	NO - see Note 2
Oil - cooking	YES
Oven cleaners	YES
Paint – oil and water based, artists paints, latex	YES - see Note 1
Paint stripper, thinner & turps	YES
Paintbrush cleaner	YES
Petrol and other fuels	YES
Photographic chemicals	YES
Polish – furniture, metal, car, shoe	YES
Pool chemicals	YES
Rat poison	YES
Rust remover	YES
Smoke Detectors	NO - see Note 10
Solvents	YES
Tile Cleaners	YES
Toiletries	YES
Transmission fluid	YES
Weed killers and herbicides	YES
Window Cleaners	YES
Wood preservatives & finishes	YES

- Note 1: A number of permanent drop-off facilities are being established. **These only accept paint, fluorescent tubes, gas cylinders, and all types of batteries.** For locations, visit [www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au) or phone 1800 353 233.
- Note 2: Sump oil and other lubricating oils are collected at many Council waste transfer stations/landfills. Contact your local council to find out details for your nearest motor oil disposal point.
- Note 3: Car batteries are collected at many council transfer stations/landfills and some major battery retailers.
- Note 4: Unused medicines and pharmaceuticals can be returned to participating pharmacists throughout Victoria for disposal. For more information, visit [www.returnmed.com.au](http://www.returnmed.com.au) or phone 1300 650 835.
- Note 5: Empty paint tins may be disposed of through your local waste transfer station. Empty drums may be collected through Drummuster. Contact your local council for further information.
- Note 6: Contact the EPA on 03 9695 2722 for information about transport and disposal of waste asbestos.
- Note 7: Check Yellow Pages under "Waste Reduction & Disposal Services".
- Note 8: ChemClear is a rural waste chemical program. Phone 1800 008 182 or visit [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au).
- Note 9: Ammunition and safety ammunition can be taken to your local police station.
- Note 10: Household smoke detectors can now be disposed of in household rubbish. Commercial smoke detectors containing more than 40 kBq of radioactive material must be disposed of by returning to the supplier or manufacturer.