

Protecting Our Water by Recycling and Proper Disposal

Each year unnecessary yet preventable amounts of pollutants enter our waterways, many of which can easily be recycled or properly disposed of. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to know what to do when you are faced with getting rid of them. The Water System's Watershed Stewardship Program is dedicated to pollution prevention and educating our community about the importance of keeping household hazardous waste out of the environment, where it can easily contaminate our water resources.



When you have extra paint, cleaners, auto fluids and general household hazardous waste, what do you do with them?

This list of commonly asked questions may help point you in the right direction for your recycling and household waste disposal needs. We recommend calling the facilities for updated information, requirements and possible fees. Thank you for doing the right thing. We can keep our watersheds clean by reducing, refusing, reusing and recycling!

Quick Tip: Only purchase what you need to complete the job and prevent the need to recycle or dispose of unnecessary waste. Recycling is great, but reducing the need is even better! Zero Extra = Zero Waste.

It might be easy and convenient to purchase in bulk, however, this shopping behavior becomes a source of extra waste when the product goes unused. With a little planning, you can eliminate having to store and eventually dispose of these extra items and chemicals. Try to purchase only the amount you will need to complete the task at hand and save yourself future time and money, while doing the environment and your community an important good deed.

For guiding technical resources about a wide variety of pollution prevention topics from the North Georgia Metropolitan Water District visit <https://northgeorgiawater.org/education-awareness/technical-resources/>

To Recycle or Dispose: The Most Commonly Asked-about Materials

Paint:

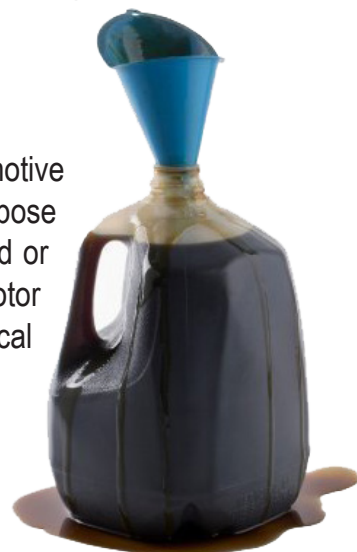
Proper paint recycling and disposal can be tricky, but a little effort makes a big impact. Oil-based, latex and other non-oil paints can be recycled at amnesty events hosted by Keep Cobb Beautiful (770)528-1135 or at several nearby recycle and disposal centers. If you only have a small amount left in the can, the second option to recycling is to open up the can, mix the remaining paint with kitty litter, and let dry until completely dry. Reseal the container and place it in a sealed plastic bag for disposal in your residential garbage pickup. The best option for water quality, the environment and community health is to recycle. Try to purchase only what you need to eliminate the need for recycling or disposal.



Cleaning up after you paint? Rinse all brushes and containers into a sink, NOT outside onto the ground. Consider paint as a toxin that washes away and soaks into the ground, contaminating our surface and ground water. A small amount of paint can dilute and impact a large amount of water, causing harm to wildlife and drinking water sources. Never rinse paint outside, always use a sink. If you have a septic tank, rinse into a container and dispose of properly, paint in your septic tank can damage to your system.

Automotive Fluids:

Some auto fluids can be recycled at recycle centers while others cannot. All automotive fluids should be contained and recycled or taken to a facility that can properly dispose of them. Automobile fluids should never be drained or dumped onto the ground or flow into a storm drain. Many auto shops and repair facilities accept used motor oil and other fluids and parts for recycling. Check local listings and call your local shops to learn about their procedures.



Pool Chemicals:

Check with your local pool supply stores, as they will often accept pool chemicals to reuse in their services. If you are draining your pool, remember that draining to the street, gutter or storm drain is unlawful. Surface discharges should be conducted with close attention to Cobb County ordinances that limit or prohibit discharges from pools and spas. Never drain pools or spas over surfaces that lead directly to a waterway. Visit <https://northgeorgiawater.org/education-awareness/technical-resources/> for Pollution Prevention Tips for Pools and Spas.



Ord. of 12-14-93; Code 1977, § 3-6-121 *states Direct discharges of polluted waters, such as drainage from overflow facilities, filter backwash waters or contaminated pool drainage from any public or residential pool, shall not be made to any outlet or to any portion of the public storm drain system, or to any natural stream, or to any body of water or ground surface within the jurisdiction of the board of commissioners, unless otherwise approved by the district environmental health program manager; excepting that pretreated for chlorine removal discharge from private residential pools may be discharged on the ground surface provided the discharge is confined to the pool owner's property and does not result in a nuisance condition.*

Tires:

Keeping tires out of the environment is extremely important because many petroleum-based chemicals in the tires can leach out over time and contaminate our waterways and drinking water sources. For a small fee, tires can be locally recycled by taking them to Advanced Disposal Services, where upon entering you will be directed to the tire recycling unloading location. Please recycle them properly.

Yard and House Chemicals:

Many Household Hazardous Waste products aren't what we typically think of as hazardous materials. When cleaners, beauty products, and other common household products go unused, it's often hard to know what to do with them. Recycling and proper disposal is key to a cleaner and healthier community. Keep Cobb Beautiful and Cobb County Water System partner each year to provide a free Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event. Check the Cobb County Master Calendar of events or contact Keep Cobb Beautiful for more information.

Medicines:

Never flush unused medicines and pharmaceuticals down the toilet or rinse down a drain. Their chemical composition is too complex to be removed during the wastewater treatment process, causing pharmaceuticals to end up in our rivers and lakes. Once in the environment, they are absorbed into aquatic organisms, entering the food chain and causing unforeseen harm to wildlife and humans.

The best method for disposing of medicines is to take them to an officially-sponsored Amnesty Take Back Event, usually hosted by Keep Cobb Beautiful with assistance from the Cobb County Police Department. These are free drop off events where the medicines will be legally, properly and safely disposed of.

If waiting for an amnesty day is not possible for you, the following locations in Cobb County accept medications and controlled substances for disposal:

1. Walgreens Pharmacy #6330, 2464 Roswell Rd, Marietta, Georgia 30062. Accepts controlled substances.
2. Walgreens Pharmacy #5902, 2670 Cobb Pkwy SE, Smyrna, GA 30080
3. CVS Pharmacy #4729, 6370 Powers Ferry Rd., Atlanta, GA 30339. Accepts controlled Substances. No sharps, aerosols, inhalers, illicit drugs, chemotherapy Waste.
4. Walgreens Pharmacy #5485, 2779 Cobb Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152
5. CVS Pharmacy #02147, 2782 North Cobb Pkwy, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Accepts controlled substances. No sharps, aerosols, inhalers, illicit drugs, chemotherapy waste.
6. CVS Pharmacy #7044, 687 Johnson's Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Accepts controlled substances. No sharps, aerosols, inhalers, illicit drugs, chemotherapy waste.
7. CVS Pharmacy #3013, 3905 Due West Rd. NW, Marietta, GA 30064. Accepts controlled substances. No sharps, aerosols, inhalers, illicit drugs, chemotherapy waste.
8. Walgreens Pharmacy #5811, 4120 Austell Rd., Austell, GA 30106.
9. CVS Pharmacy #5051, 4250 Roswell Rd. NE, Marietta, GA 30062. Accepts controlled substances. No sharps, aerosols, inhalers, illicit drugs, chemotherapy waste.

A map of these locations can be found at <https://cobbcountyga.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ed454a0ec3734a39ace9b8031f26adc6>



Metals:

There are several local scrap and metal recycling facilities in Cobb County. Check your local listings for contact information. Many items can be recycled, so be sure to utilize these privately-owned centers and recycle all your unwanted metal objects. Recycle anything from nails and chains, to lawnmowers, grills, refrigerators and cars. Keep our community free of illicit dump sites.



General Household Recyclables:

WestRock Recycling has drive up bins with no fuss recycling. Glass Bottles/Containers, Aluminum/Tin Cans, Paper, Plastic Bags, Cardboard. Sort your materials and place in the appropriate receptacles free of charge.

Vegetation Disposal:

If maintaining a compost bin is not an option for you, the TAG Grinding Services, Inc. Vegetative Waste Recovery Center accepts yard debris such as grass clippings, limbs, bushes, and leaves were it is chipped up and used as mulch. Remember, dumping yard waste or cutting down vegetation within 50 feet of a stream or waterway is a violation of the stream buffer ordinance. The stream buffer is there to protect the stream from erosion, sedimentation, thermal pollution and degradation of water quality. If you have a stream on your property, a healthy stream buffer should prevent your land from eroding away during rain events. Stream erosion remediation is the responsibility of the property owner.

Local facilities that accept many recyclable items:

The **City of Smyrna Recycling Education Center** accepts a number of materials. They can be reached at (770)431-2869 and located at 3475 Lake Dr SE, Smyrna, GA 30082.

The **Center For Hard To Recycle Materials (CHaRM)** accepts a vast array of materials that most facilities are unable to process. They can be reached at (404)600-6386 and located at 1110 Hill Street St, Atlanta, GA 30315.

Advanced Disposal Services Transfer Station accepts tires, used oil, antifreeze, car batteries, aluminum scrap, carpet padding, electronics, paint and is a fee-based disposal facility. They can be reached at (770)485-8940 and located at 1897 County Services Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30008.

Habitat For Humanity often accepts donations of paint in usable condition and other items for housing construction projects. If you have something in good usable condition, consider donating to HFH. The local office can be reached at (770)432-7954 and located at 1625 Spring Road SE, Smyrna, GA 30080.

Contact **Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB)** for free disposal event dates and locations (770) 528- 1135.



For a list of KCB recommended recycling and disposal locations, visit: <https://www.cobbcounty.org/keep-cobb-beautiful/recycling/recycling-drop-spots-and-locations>

For plant material recycling, **TAG Grinding Services, Inc. Vegetative Waste Services & Vegetative Waste Recovery Center** can be reached at (678) 540-5001 and located at 2150 County Services Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30008.

For general household recycling, **WestRock Recycling** offers recycling free of charge. They can be reached at (678)403-3900 and located at 1775 County Services Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30008.

