

ecoOttawa

Environmental Health Disposal Program



*mi*Ottawa Department of  
Public Health



Image courtesy of Ottawa County Parks

## What is public health?

Public health is the science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the coordinated efforts of organizations, communities and individuals. It is concerned with protecting the health of populations; ranging from local neighborhoods to a world-wide scale when addressing a pandemic or environmental threat.

# environmental health

Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH)  
will assure conditions in which all people can achieve optimum health.

Together, we are responsible to protect our communities from preventable diseases. To live better, longer and healthier lives, proper disposal of contaminants ensures:

- Safe drinking water.
- Cleaner air with less pollutants.
- Safe food production to consumption.



Our Vision **HEALTHY PEOPLE**



# Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Images courtesy of Jessica Voglewede

The average U.S. household  
**GENERATES**

more than

**20** lbs

of household  
**hazardous waste**  
per year.<sup>1</sup>

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can pollute the environment and pose a threat to people's health. Some of these items can be reused, recycled or must be managed properly as hazardous waste.

Each year, the Solid Waste Program serves thousands of Ottawa County residents; and processes and properly disposes hundreds of thousands of pounds of hazardous material.

# Improper Disposal Can Contaminate

FREE household hazardous waste disposal is available to Ottawa County residents at any Resource Recovery Service Center (see back for locations). Household hazardous wastes are leftover, unwanted or unusable products that contain toxic, flammable, caustic (causes burns) or chemically reactive ingredients.

## Accepted

Aerosols	Solvents
Pesticides	20 pound propane tanks
Motor oil and filters	Household cleaners
Oil-based paint	Gasoline
Drain cleaners	Paint thinner and stripper
Mercury	Fluorescent tube light bulbs
Fire extinguishers	Hobby supplies
Garden chemicals	Car batteries
Pool and spa chemicals	Lithium batteries
Computers	Rechargeable batteries
Televisions	Scrap metal

## NOT Accepted

Latex paint	CRT (tube) televisions and monitors
Alkaline batteries	Medications
Tires	<i>(Find locations at <a href="http://miOttawa.org/MedDisposal">miOttawa.org/MedDisposal</a>)</i>
Appliances	



### HEALTH HAZARDS may occur when:

- Toxic gases are inhaled from mixed products.
- Hazardous products are left around the house and consumed by children or pets.
- Hazardous products are poured into drains or toilets, causing contamination of septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems.
- Hazardous products are poured into storm sewers and pollute bodies of water.
- Drinking water from wells or water systems are contaminated.



## Latex Paint Disposal

Unusable latex paint, while not considered hazardous, must be dried prior to disposal. When drying latex paint, always choose an area that is well ventilated, protected from the elements and not accessible to children or pets.

For small amounts of paint, simply open the container and allow the contents to air dry. To solidify larger quantities of latex paint, mix in an absorbent such as cat litter. Mix in enough absorbent until the paint becomes difficult to stir and is no longer liquid. Allow to dry with the lid off. The container may be placed in the regular trash. Full, unused cans of paint that have not been frozen can be donated to Lakeshore Habitat Restore. Call (616) 399-7006 for more information.



## Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal

Clean Sweep is a FREE, non-regulatory program to help you safely dispose of banned and/or unusable pesticides or herbicides. Any Michigan homeowner, farm, greenhouse, nursery, golf course or other end user of pesticides or herbicides can use this service. Old, unwanted, out-of-date or unusable pesticides or herbicides can be dropped off (free of charge) for safe disposal at one of our Resource Recovery Service Centers.

Each year, the Clean Sweep Program collects and properly disposes more than 20,000 pounds of pesticides and herbicides.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste

We provide confidential, non-regulatory assistance and referral to properly manage industrial hazardous wastes. Our Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator program provides environmentally safe and economical disposal of hazardous waste at any of our Resource Recovery Service Centers, as storage space and resources allow. Appointments are required and a fee for services will apply.

A conditionally exempt small quantity generator is one who creates less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste in a month or accumulates no more than 2,200 pounds total at a time. Contact the Solid Waste Program supervisor for all business inquiries at (616) 494-5569.



## Used Motor Oil Recycling

Each year, thousands of gallons of used motor oil is produced by do-it-yourself oil changes. Improper management of used oil can have detrimental effects on the environment. As little as one quart of oil can contaminate 2 million gallons of drinking water! Ottawa County residents can recycle used oil or any other automotive fluids (free of charge) at any Resource Recover Service Center. All fluids must be in a container no larger than 5 gallons.



# Mercury Disposal and Exchange Program

Mercury is the third  
**most toxic**  
substance in the  
ENVIRONMENT  
after lead and arsenic.<sup>2</sup>

Image courtesy of Roshan Singh



*The Great Lakes Commission*, conducted a 3 yr study with 170 scientists on the effects of mercury pollution and found **6** of the **15** most commonly eaten sport fish had **mercury levels higher** than recommended for human consumption. Largemouth Bass • Northern Pike • Walleye • Smallmouth Bass • Lake Trout • Common Carp<sup>3</sup>

Mercury is a toxic element found in household devices like thermometers and thermostats. **Mercury should be carefully handled to prevent mercury spills and should be properly disposed.** Exposure or inhalation of mercury vapors can lead to neurological damage and several other health hazards.



### **Mercury Containing Thermometers**

The Thermometer Exchange program is free to Ottawa County residents. Residents may exchange mercury containing thermometers for a free digital thermometer at any Ottawa County Department of Public Health office or Resource Recovery Service Center. Limit one digital thermometer per resident.

### **Mercury Containing Devices and Elemental Mercury**

Schools, homes, health care facilities and businesses may have mercury containing devices such as barometers, thermometers, sphygmomanometers, mercury switches and elemental mercury. Please call (616) 393-5645 for instructions on proper handling of mercury and to arrange for disposal.

### **Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs**

Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent lights contain very small amounts of mercury in the form of a vapor powder. Ottawa County residents can recycle fluorescent light bulbs (free of charge) at any Ottawa County Resource Recovery Service Center. A fee for disposal services and appointment windows will apply to businesses.

# Medication Disposal Program

## Prevent drug misuse and abuse.

Free disposal of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications are accepted at participating locations. They are NOT accepted at Resource Recovery Service Centers. Please remove pills from bottles and place in a sealable plastic bag. Liquids or gels may be kept in original packages with the labels blackened or removed.

Find participating locations at  
[www.miOttawa.org/MedDisposal](http://www.miOttawa.org/MedDisposal).

OCDPH Office  
(Holland & Hudsonville only)

Participating Pharmacies

Law Enforcement Agencies

**Don't flush medications.**  
**It contaminates our drinking water!**

Each year in the U.S., more than **71,000 children** aged 18 and younger are seen in emergency rooms for ***unintentional overdoses*** of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.<sup>4</sup>

# Sharps Disposal Program



**Safe disposal of needles help prevent exposure** to serious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis.

Free Home Use-Medical Sharps containers are available to residents at any Ottawa County Department of Public Health office. They are NOT accepted at Resource Recovery Service Centers. Once containers are full, you may exchange them for new ones at our offices. Only sharps containers provided by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health will be accepted. We dispose full containers through a licensed medical waste disposal company to reduce any health or safety risks.

A vast array of ***pharmaceuticals***, including antibiotics, anticonvulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones, have been found in the **DRINKING WATER** supplies of at least **41 million Americans**.<sup>5</sup>

Our Vision **HEALTHY PEOPLE**

# Recycling



“As an environmental health technician,  
I know I make a difference  
in our community.”

- Jessica

## Accepted

- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Paperboard
- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines
- Phone books
- Brown paper bags
- Metals
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Clear and colored glass
- Small solid plastics #s 1-7

*Please clean all food containers  
and remove lids and labels.*



## NOT Accepted

- Plastic bags of all types
- Styrofoam
- Packing peanuts
- Items larger than a 5 gallon bucket
- Any items that could jam processing equipment

For more information or a membership form, visit [www.miOttawa.org/eco](http://www.miOttawa.org/eco) or call (616) 393-5645.

## Consumer Electronics

Electronics often contain hazardous materials that should not be landfilled or incinerated. They also contain precious metals, glass and plastics that should be recycled. Donating or recycling electronics at any Resource Recovery Service Center conserves natural resources and avoids air and water pollution (see back for locations).

## Appliance Disposal

Washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers and freezers need to be disposed of properly. Although Ottawa County Department of Public Health does not offer any appliance disposal programs, there are other environmentally responsible options. For more information, call Black River Recycling & Supply at (616) 396-8587 for disposal fees and/or purchase of your used appliances.

## Televisions

Flat screen televisions and monitors may be recycled for free at any Resource Recovery Service Center. CRT (tube) televisions and monitors may NOT be recycled at any Resource Recovery Service Center. To find locations accepting CRTs, visit [www.miOttawa.org/recycle](http://www.miOttawa.org/recycle) or call (616) 393-5645.

For every *million cell phones* we

# RECYCLE

**35,274** lbs of copper,  
**772** lbs of silver, **75** lbs of gold  
& **33** lbs of palladium can be  
**RECOVERED.**<sup>6</sup>



Our Vision **HEALTHY PEOPLE**

# Contact Us



Image courtesy of Kevin Povenz

## Public Health Services

- Immunizations
- Family Planning
- Recycling
- Medication Disposal
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Sharps Disposal Program
- Emergency Preparedness Resources
- Beach Water Testing
- Community Health Services
- . . . and much more!

### Visit

[www.miOttawa.org/eco](http://www.miOttawa.org/eco)  
[www.facebook.com/ecoOttawa](https://www.facebook.com/ecoOttawa)  
[www.twitter.com/miOCDPH](https://www.twitter.com/miOCDPH)

### Call

(616) 393-5645 or (616) 396-5266

### Email

[environmentalhealth@miottawa.org](mailto:environmentalhealth@miottawa.org)

# Resource Recovery Service Centers

Most services are FREE.  
Recycling membership available for an annual fee.

## COOPERSVILLE

15600 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Coopersville, MI 49404

### Open

Mon 12-4 pm  
Wed 8am-12pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 8am-11am

## GEORGETOWN

6693 Roger Drive  
Jenison, MI 49428

### Open

Tues 12-4pm  
Th 8am-12pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat 8am-11am

## GRAND HAVEN

16850 Comstock Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

### Open

Mon & Wed 8am-1pm & 2-4pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Sat 8am-11am

## HOLLAND

14053 Quincy  
Holland, MI 49424

### Open

Tues & Th 8am-1pm & 2-4pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat 8am-11am

# Thank you

Your diligence today helps protect our  
community from future health hazards.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>[www.epa.gov/region9/waste/solid/house.html](http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/solid/house.html)

<sup>2</sup>[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury)

<sup>3</sup>[www.briloon.org/mercuryconnections/greatlakes](http://www.briloon.org/mercuryconnections/greatlakes)

<sup>4</sup>[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

<sup>5</sup>[www.epa.gov/ppcp/](http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/), [www.greatlakes.org/pharmareport](http://www.greatlakes.org/pharmareport)

<sup>6</sup>[www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/materials/ecycling/faq.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/materials/ecycling/faq.htm)

[www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm)

[www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard)

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