

# Protect Our Waterways

## Understanding Stormwater Runoff and Hazardous Waste



### Why It Matters:

Stormwater runoff is a significant source of water pollution. We can work together to mitigate its impact by managing hazardous waste responsibly. When it rains, water flows over surfaces such as roads, driveways, and lawns, picking up pollutants in the process. These pollutants can end up in local streams, rivers, and oceans without any treatment, which can harm wildlife, ecosystems, and even our drinking water.

### Impacts of Improper Disposal

**Pollution:** Hazardous waste like oil, paint, and pesticides contaminate our water bodies and pollute our drinking water sources.

**Ecosystem Damage:** Toxic chemicals harm aquatic life and disrupt ecosystems. Soil contamination can affect plant growth.

**Human Health Risks:** Polluted water can affect drinking water supplies and recreational areas.

**Cleanup Costs:** Increased cleanup costs for communities.

### How to Identify Hazardous Waste:

**Corrosive:** Materials that can eat through metal or damage skin, like acids or bases.

**Flammable:** Easily ignitable items, such as oil-based paints and gasoline.

**Reactive:** Substances that can explode or release toxic gases when mixed, like bleach and ammonia.

**Toxic:** Harmful to humans or the environment, including pesticides and antifreeze.

### What You Should Do:

**Dispose of Hazardous Waste Properly:** Take items like batteries, paint, and chemicals to designated disposal facilities, and check for waste collection events in your area.

**Use Eco-Friendly Products:** Choose biodegradable cleaning agents and organic fertilizers.

**Maintain Your Vehicle:** Fix leaks promptly to prevent oil and fluids from washing into storm drains.

**Clean Up Spills:** Use absorbent materials and dispose of them safely.

### What You Should Avoid

✗ **Never Dump Waste:** Do not pour hazardous materials down storm drains, as they lead directly to waterways.

✗ **Avoid Over-Fertilizing:** Excess nutrients from fertilizers can lead to harmful algae blooms.

✗ **Don't Leave Litter:** Trash clogs storm drains and adds to water pollution.

**If you See Something, Say Something!**

**Please report any activities you observe that allow paint, soap, or other pollutants into our storm drains.**

**STORMWATER HOTLINE:**

**850.934.5108**

**STORMWATER EMAIL:**

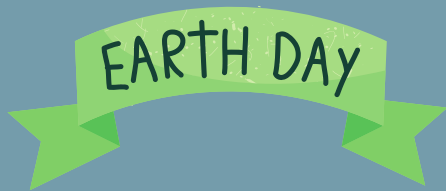
**stormwater@gulfbreezefl.gov**



**CITY OF  
GULF BREEZE**  
— 1961 —

## Join us for the Annual Shoreline Cleanup Event

**In celebration of Earth Day, The City of Gulf Breeze and Ocean Hour will host the Annual Shoreline Cleanup Event on Saturday, April 19th, 2025, at Wayside Park South. Sign-in begins at 7:45 am, and cleanup will go from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.**



**Volunteers are encouraged to bring their kayaks. Refreshments will be available.**

### **How You Can Help:**

- Educate yourself and others about stormwater runoff and hazardous waste.
- Participate in community cleanup events.
- Report illegal dumping to local authorities.

### **Walk & Pick Program**

Are you interested in making a difference in your neighborhood? The City has implemented a new Walk & Pick Program to encourage residents to collect debris while walking. Participants are invited to take a photo of the debris and send it to the city along with the approximate location where it was collected (i.e. the neighborhood).

**Email: [stormwater@gulfbreezefl.gov](mailto:stormwater@gulfbreezefl.gov)**

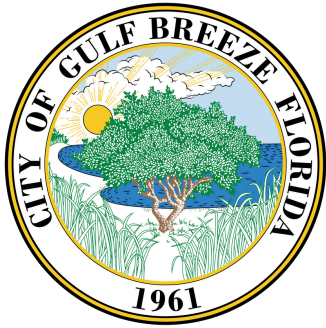
### **Learn More!**

**For more information, visit our Stormwater Management webpage:**

<https://cityofgulfbreeze.us/departments/public-works/stormwater-management/>



# Household Hazardous Waste



**On Amnesty Day, residents can dispose of up to 5 gallons of approved materials at no cost!**

## **GUIDELINES FOR PACKING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS FOR TRANSPORT**

- Avoid mixing different chemicals together.
- Refrain from smoking near chemicals.
- Keep chemicals in their original containers, ensuring labels remain intact. If a label is missing, please mark it clearly yourself.
- Secure any leaky items in a secondary leak-proof container or plastic bag.
- Package chemicals safely in non-leaking containers or boxes.
- Place containers in a well-ventilated area, away from both the driver and passengers.
- Transport fluorescent lamps in their original packaging, or use electrical tape to group the tubes together and wrap them with protective padding.
- Do not mix loose Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) with heavier items, such as paint cans or batteries, in the same container.
- Customers must pour their own oil, gasoline, and/or antifreeze.

**Assistance is available upon request.**

**Stormwater runoff is rainwater or snowmelt that flows over land surfaces, carrying pollutants into nearby water bodies.**

Among the most harmful pollutants are **HAZARDOUS WASTES**, which pose significant risks to both the environment and public health.

**Hazardous Waste includes substances that are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. Examples include:**

- **Motor Oil and other automotive fluids**
- **Paints, solvents, and thinners**
- **Pesticides and herbicides**
- **Household cleaners and detergents**
- **Batteries**
- **E-waste (old computers, phones, and other electronics)**

**When Hazardous Wastes are improperly disposed of, they can:**

- **Leach into the soil** and contaminate groundwater sources.
- **Run-off into storm drains** during rain fall, directly entering streams, rivers, and lakes without treatment.
- **Harm aquatic ecosystems** and kill fish, plants, and other organisms.
- **Pose health risks** to humans through contaminated drinking water and recreational water bodies.

**Stormwater systems are designed to manage rainwater, not hazardous waste! Stormwater systems typically drain into our local water bodies without filtration. Follow these steps to prevent hazardous waste pollution:**

**Proper Disposal:** take hazardous waste to designated collection centers or drop-off events in the community.

**Proper Storage:** Keep hazardous waste in their original containers, with labels intact. Store in a cool, dry place.

**Use Eco-Friendly Alternatives:** Use non-toxic or biodegradable products when possible, and reduce use of pesticides and fertilizers in your garden.

**Prevent Spills and Leaks:** Inspect vehicles and machinery for leaks. Clean up spills immediately, using absorbent materials like sand or kitty litter and dispose properly.

**Santa Rosa County usually hosts the 'South End Amnesty Day' twice annually at 5841 Gulf Breeze Parkway. This event provides Gulf Breeze residents the opportunity to dispose of Household Hazardous Waste at no cost, eliminating the need for a trip to the Central Landfill in Milton. Typically, Amnesty Day takes place in March and October. Residents can find announcements in the local newspaper or by visiting [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov).**

# Accepted Items

- Paints, stains and polyurethanes
- Degreasers and solvents
- Thinners
- Used cooking oil
- Household cleaners
- Motor oil and oil filters
- Gasoline and diesel fuels
- Transmission and brake fluids
- Hydraulic fluids
- Antifreeze
- Rechargeable and coin cell batteries
- Propane tanks
- Fluorescent bulbs and ballast
- Thermostats and thermometers
- Fire extinguishers
- Fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides
- Aerosol cans
- Computers printers and other electronic devices
- Flat screen monitors and televisions
- Copiers, scanners and fax machines
- Stereos, radios and amplifiers
- Cable boxes, modems and servers
- Cell phones
- Microwaves
- Syringes (in approved containers, empty containers will be given to customers in exchange)

**Amnesty Day is dedicated specifically to the disposal of Household Hazardous Waste, NOT recyclables.**

**Residents are responsible for removing any accepted items from their vehicles.**

# Batteries Accepted

- Ni-Cd batteries are rechargeable and typically found in cordless power tools.
- Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA/Pb) batteries are rechargeable and typically found in UPS Back-ups, emergency devices, emergency exit signs, security systems and mobility scooters.
- Lithium Ion (LI-Ion) batteries can typically be found in cell phones, laptops, two-way radios, and cordless power tools.
- Ni-MH batteries are rechargeable and typically found in digital cameras and cordless phones.



# Non-Accepted Items

- Dried paint/empty paint cans
- CRT/projection screen TVs
- Wooden entertainment centers
- Alkaline Batteries
- Tires, garbage or yard waste
- Medical Waste/Medications
- Large Drums (metal/plastic)

**Tires, scrap metal, limbs, yard debris, and household garbage will not be accepted on Amnesty Day; however, they can be taken to the Central Landfill at for a minimal fee.**

**Household Hazardous Waste Year-Round Disposal is available at no cost for residents throughout the year at the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton.**

**Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

**Santa Rosa County businesses, small quantity generators, and/or bulk waste disposal options for hazardous waste must call HHW at (850) 983-4651 for an appointment.**

**Phone calls are accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday - Friday**

**Amnesty Day is made possible through the collaboration of Santa Rosa County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Jim Reece from the Okaloosa County Environmental Office.**

**For further information, please contact (850) 981-7135**

**Not all battery types are accepted!**

**Alkaline, single-use batteries such as AA, AAA, 9V, C-cell, and D-cell do not contain mercury and may be thrown away as household trash.**

