

DATE: January 23, 2023

## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection in Vermont



### What is HHW?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is the most toxic part of the solid waste stream and would be considered federally regulated Hazardous Waste when the waste is produced by non-residential waste generators such as a business, school, or institution. If released it can harm water quality and plant, animal, and human health.

HHW includes common waste products labeled “caution, toxic, danger, hazard, warning, poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable” such as:

- Aerosols
- Automotive additives
- Flammable degreasers
- Flammable lubricants
- Flammable liquid adhesives
- Furniture strippers
- Glues and adhesives
- Grout/Masonry cleaners
- Hazardous cleaners
- Hobby and craft supplies
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Mineral Spirits
- Paint thinners
- Paint and varnish remover
- Pesticides
- Pool and hot tub chemicals
- Rust remover
- Tar and bug remover
- Turpentine

### HHW Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

In 2022 [H115](#) and now [H.67](#) have been introduced to create a safe collection program for HHW funded by HHW product producers—commonly called an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program. The following 20 producers are estimated to produce about 60% of Vermont’s HHW<sup>1</sup>:

- |                                 |                               |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. RPM International Inc        | 7. 3M                         | 14. Spectrum Brands           |
| 2. The Sherwin-Williams Company | 8. Henry Company              | 15. Dap Products Inc.         |
| 3. Reckitt Benckiser Group plc. | 9. Zep Inc.                   | 16. Church & Dwight Co., Inc. |
| 4. S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.     | 10. BISSELL Homecare, Inc.    | 17. Rug Doctor LLC            |
| 5. The Clorox Company           | 11. Weiman Products, LLC      | 18. Miracle Sealants Company  |
| 6. W. M. Barr                   | 12. Turtle Wax, Inc.          | 19. Sopus Products            |
|                                 | 13. Colgate-Palmolive Company | 20. Arch Chemicals, Inc.      |

<sup>1</sup> According to a 2019 [Product Stewardship Institute report](#) contracted for by ANR-DEC

## Increasing Costs

For more than 30 years, Vermont municipalities have been required by law to collect HHW, however costs for one day collection events have increased as much as 50%. Some towns are spending \$100-\$400 per carload and an average of \$1.6 million per year (according to DEC’s survey data) to protect human health and the environment (see Figure 1. below for example data on rising costs).

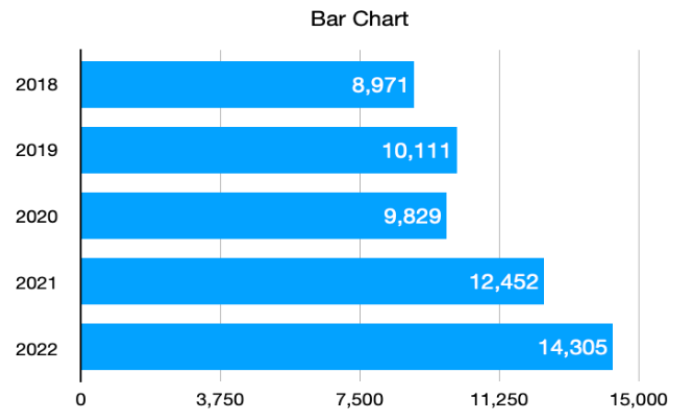
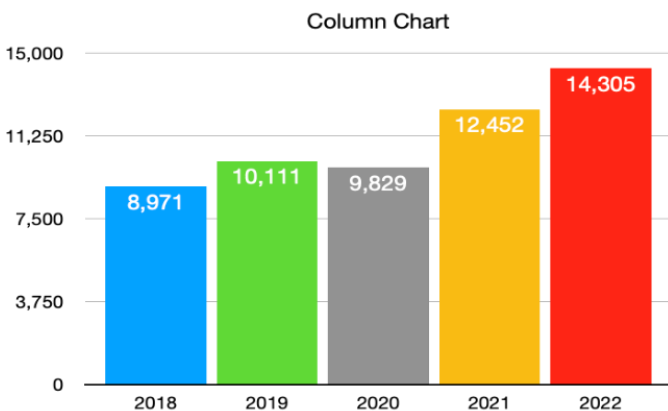
A shrinking pool of service providers coupled with both labor and supply chain shortages have forced solid waste management entities to spend more, or charge users more, to continue to provide these vital services. Charging customers more for doing the ‘right thing’ can lead residents and businesses to dump harmful waste in their trash or worse, illegal dumping. This threatens the health and safety of solid waste haulers and facility operators, contaminates landfill leachate, and can harm the environment.

Figure 1. Londonderry Solid Waste Group HHW Costs

This is solely the hazardous waste contractor costs for a single collection event in June of each of these years without associated costs of advertising, labor, mailing, etc.

Total Contractor Cost HHW Collection Event June

Year	Cost per collection
2018	8,971
2019	10,111
2020	9,829
2021	12,452
2022	14,305



## What do EPR Programs do?

Vermont's five (5) existing producer responsibility programs provide free and convenient collection, recycling, and safe management of dangerous and difficult to recycle materials including: mercury bulbs, mercury thermostats, electronic devices (TVs, computers, printers), paint, and batteries. These programs successfully reduce municipal costs and result in some of the highest collection rates in the country.

For example, as the only state with a primary battery producer responsibility program, Vermont recycles more batteries per-capita than any other state (see Figure 2.).

Figure 2. Battery Producer Responsibility

