

Date: June 28, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Jeffers
Lakes Region Planning Commission
(603) 279-8171

Household Hazardous Waste: A Common Problem, A Simple Solution

There are many toxic materials which exist right inside many Lakes Region homes. These toxic materials are known as “hazardous wastes” which are substances that poison or contaminate the environment and threaten the health of those in the local community. They may be flammable, corrosive, or reactive, and should be disposed of properly so as not to harm people or damage the region’s soil and water resources. The fact is that most households use and create hazardous waste every day.

Look under your kitchen or bathroom sink, at the basement workbench, in the garage or garden shed – wherever you store cleaning products, home and vehicle maintenance items, or garden chemicals. If a product label says “danger”, “warning”, “toxic”, or “caution”, the product contains ingredients that are flammable, poisonous, will burn the skin and eyes, or react violently with other chemicals. These items, if disposed of improperly, are a very real threat to the health of the community, and the natural ecosystem. Municipal treatment plants and leachfields are incapable of processing these chemicals. In other words, these chemicals can remain in the water supply. Even the chemicals you use daily around your home can easily reach the local water system or groundwater as the chemicals are used and washed down the drain. Disposal in a landfill poses similar risks, and the result is the eventual contamination of our groundwater, which our environment and economy are dependent upon.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission understands this problem, and in 1986 pioneered a regional program to prevent injury and environmental pollution from household hazardous waste. Every year since then, the LRPC has coordinated annual household hazardous waste collections for communities throughout the Lakes Region interested in participating in the shared collection program. This regional program saves both time and

additional cost. This program employs a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved waste transporter which collects and safely disposes of household hazardous waste.

On Saturday July 29 and Saturday August 5, twenty-four communities will participate in one of the longest running and most successful household hazardous waste collection programs in New England. Four collection sites will be open on July 29 (Belmont, Franklin, Gilford, and Meredith) and three more collection sites will be open on August 5 (Bristol, Laconia, and Moultonborough). All sites will be open from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Note that we are making arrangements to hold an additional collection in the eastern part of the Lakes Region, the date and location to is yet to be determined.

Residents and residential property owners in the 24 participating communities may bring up to ten gallons or 50 pounds of household hazardous products in for safe disposal. The participating communities for the collection are: Alexandria, Andover, Belmont, Bridgewater, Bristol, Center Harbor, Effingham, Franklin, Freedom, Gilford, Gilmanton, Hebron, Hill, Holderness, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Ossipee, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Tamworth, Tilton and Tuftonboro.

It is never too early to start gathering waste for the collection; when opening a summer camp, preparing to move to a new house, or just cleaning out the garage. This is a small but important step that everyone can take for their families and their community to prevent contamination of water, our most valuable resource. Note: This year we will not be collecting fluorescent lamps (tubes and CFLs), batteries, or mercury-containing devices such as thermometers and thermostats. Information on collection sites, accepted materials, and other disposal options can be found at <http://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp>, use the QR code, or by calling LRPC at 279-8171.

XXXXXXXXXX

