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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disposing of Common Items: Latex Paint, Unused Meds, and Electronics

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) will be holding the annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections later this summer (July 28 and August 4). However, there are some materials that we do NOT ACCEPT at these collections, including latex paint (water-based), unused medications, and electronics. So what CAN you do with these materials?

Leftover latex paint: Use the paint up on other smaller projects or donate it to a local organization that could use the paint such as a theater group, school, recreational group, camp, or friends, neighbors, family, or even a local paint contractor. If you can't find a place to donate it, see if your local transfer station facility will accept it at their swap shop.

Latex paint is generally good for up to ten years, and you can determine whether it is still useable by stirring it, and wiping on newspaper. If there are lumps in the paint, then the paint is old and should be dried out and thrown it out in the trash, as it is not considered toxic waste. To help dry out paint, mix in clay-based kitty litter in a ratio of two parts kitty litter to one part paint. Many hardware stores now sell "paint hardener" for this purpose. Some people mix newspaper or sawdust with the paint to speed up the drying time.

Unused Medications: Unused medications entering local water sources can cause damage to the health of the community and aquatic life. The two main options for proper disposal are at one of the dozen different drop box locations around the Lakes Region or at the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility in Wolfeboro.

Go to <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/documents/drop-box-locations.pdf> for a list of sites for free anonymous drug drop-off.

Unwanted Electronics: If your electronic device is still in useable condition, consider donating it through the National Cristina Foundation www.cristina.org or World Computer Exchange www.worldcomputerexchange.org, which in turn distributes old electronics to families in need locally and around the world. You might also bring/send your e-waste to retailers such as BestBuy, Staples, or Amazon for recycling and receive benefits such as an Amazon gift card or discounts on your next electronic purchase (check with the retailer in advance).

There are many toxic chemicals found in electronics, including heavy metals that need to be disposed of properly. Most Lakes Region communities do accept e-waste at their solid waste facility for a modest fee.

Again, none of these products will be accepted at the Lakes Region HHW collections, but there are a number of options for safe alternative uses, repurposing, or disposal. If you have questions, or would like more information visit the LRPC website at www.lakesrpc.org or contact us at (603)279-5341.

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