Vol 1, No. 5, 2025

NEWSLETTER

PROSPECT RECYCLES!

THE SCIENCE & ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

Did you know?

- **Recycling 1 ton of paper** products saves 3.3 cubic yds of landfill space, roughly 10' X 10 ' X 10 feet .
- **Discarded wood and paper** could heat 50 million homes for 20 years.
- **Recycling ONE aluminum can** saves enough energy to power a home television for nearly 3 hours.

FREE SEMINAR ON "HARD - TO - DISPOSE - OF" WASTE

NOVEMBER 8 Prospect City Hall

Prospect welcomes:

Karen Maynard, Louisville Metro's Solid Waste Education Mgr.

Ms Maynard will present an audio visual seminar in the City Hall auditorium between 12 noon and 1:30 with Questions and Answers from the people in the audience. Others can participate through **Prospect's YOU TUBE Channel.**

The content focus this time will be on hazardous and potentially dangerous products in our homes and garages, with leads and information on **how and where** to deposit these safely.

SEATING IS LIMITED in City Hall's auditorium and **doors open at 11:30.**

Toxic and Hazardous Materials Commonly Found in U.S. Homes — and How to Handle Them Safely

Many households contain materials that can pose significant health and environmental risks if mishandled. These substances—found in cleaning supplies, paints, batteries, and electronics—often seem harmless because they are used in daily life. Yet, understanding their potential dangers and learning how to dispose of them safely is crucial for protecting both families and the environment.

Common Hazardous Household Materials

1. **Household Cleaners** – Products like oven cleaners, bleach, drain openers, and ammonia-based sprays often contain caustic chemicals such as sodium hydroxide or chlorine. When mixed accidentally (for example, bleach and ammonia), they release toxic gases that can irritate or damage the lungs. Used cleaning products should not be poured down the drain; instead, they **should be taken to a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection site.**

2. **Paints, Stains, and Solvents** – Oil-based paints, turpentine, and paint thinners contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can harm indoor air

FREE TOUR!

Rumpke's Recycling Facility: February 19, 2026

August 18, 2025

This is a 2-part narrated tour with access to the 900+ acre sanitary landfill including the newest 27-acre "cell", and then the 226,000 sq. ft. *Materials Recovery Center*. Lunch will be included. We leave at 8:45 & return by 4.

Our NEXT excursion is limited to 20 residents. The tour will include the Recycling Facility and their sanitary landfill. Call 502-228-1121 or call Norman Hicks @ 502-396-0997 or email normanhicks54@gmail.com.

What they said about the tour:

"Rumpke gave us a guide for the day who both educated us and answered our many quest-ions. And I think it was 40% of our trash could be recycled but still ends up in the landfill. I was glad to hear that some plastics were get-ting recycled but I wish there was more. Lots to see there, lots to consider. It was a fun trip overall and doing carpool with neighbors gave us a chance to get to know one another."

Doug E.
Prospect

"The organized, informative tour of Rumpke's Cincinnati location is worth the drive to see the massive operation of the engineering feats achieved to minimize the environmental impact of a landfill. Education to reduce, reuse and recycle waste is emphasized."

S. Costley
Prospect

"At my age, I enjoy the opportunity to learn any-thing new. I came away from the trip to Rumpke with a new appreciation for all aspects of the garbage industry and an enhan-ced awareness of the details and importance of recycling. I am now smarter about how and what I can recycle (yes to pizza boxes! Don't put items in a bag! No lithium batteries! .)"

Winny J.
Prospect

PROSPECT CARES

quality and contribute to smog formation outdoors. VOC exposure can cause headaches, nausea, and long-term respiratory problems. Latex paint, if completely dried, can usually be disposed of with regular trash, but oil-based paints and solvents must be taken to an HHW facility.

3. **Pesticides and Herbicides** – Common garden chemicals contain organophosphates and pyrethroids, which are neurotoxic to humans and pets. Improper disposal—such as pouring into drains or onto soil—can contaminate groundwater. Unused pesticides should be kept in their original containers and brought to local hazardous waste drop-offs.

4. **Batteries** – Rechargeable and button-cell batteries often contain heavy metals like cadmium, lead, or mercury, all of which can leach into soil and water if discarded in household trash. Lithium-ion batteries, found in phones and laptops, can ignite fires in trash or recycling trucks. Most retailers and municipalities provide collection bins for battery recycling.

WHY THESE SUBSTANCES ARE DANGEROUS

The scientific risks associated with household toxins are primarily due to **bioaccumulation** and **chemical persistence**. Heavy metals like mercury and lead do not degrade easily and can accumulate in living organisms over time, leading to neurological and developmental damage. VOCs, meanwhile, react with nitrogen oxides in sunlight to form ground-level ozone—a key component of smog.

Safe Disposal and Prevention

- **Check local HHW collection schedules—most towns hold annual or monthly drop-off events.**
- **Use non-toxic alternatives—such as vinegar-based cleaners or low-VOC paints.**
- **Store products properly—in tightly sealed, labeled containers away from heat or sunlight.**
- **Never mix chemicals—as unpredictable reactions can release toxic gases.**

By responsibly handling and disposing of these materials, households can significantly reduce the risk of poisoning, pollution, and fires—creating safer homes and a cleaner environment for all.

What About Those Batteries?

Many recycling facilities are not equipped to handle the complex chemistry of newer battery types, and contamination from mixed materials can reduce efficiency. Furthermore, transporting used batteries to specialized recycling centers increases carbon emissions and costs.

WATCH FOR NEXT ISSUE !