

## ***Don't be a hoarder - rid your house of harmful materials,***

***EMC Ottawa West, Jul 29, 2010***

---

EMC Lifestyle - Most homeowners are used to bringing garbage and recycling to the curb - but often hazardous or special waste materials sit in our basements or garages for long periods of time. Many people are unsure of what is considered hazardous or special waste and how to safely and legally dispose of these items.

Don't want to be a hazardous hoarder? Here are five tips from Stewardship Ontario to help identify and safely dispose of hazardous and special waste materials:

### TIPs

-Clean house: Know where hazardous and special waste materials are kept in your home. Search for old batteries that are hiding in drawers and cupboards, motor oil and filters from your last oil change, or old paint cans cluttering your garage. Stop ignoring these items and make a plan to dispose of them properly.

-Make an "Orange Drop" zone: Designate a zone in your home, where it's easy for you to find the materials when it's time to dispose of them. Ensure items are out of the reach of children and pets and are properly sealed. Never mix any hazardous or special waste materials together.

-When in doubt, don't throw it out: These materials can be very harmful in a landfill, contaminating soil and ground water, eventually making it into rivers, lakes or even living creatures. Take advantage of Ontario's over 92 municipal depots, 238 retail collection counters, 2200 Call2Recycle battery collection sites, and 2700 pharmacies or a local collection event to safely dispose of hazardous and special waste materials. You can find the nearest depot to you online at [www.makethedrop.ca](http://www.makethedrop.ca).

-Know your stuff: The Government of Ontario has added 13 new items to the list of identified household items as hazardous or special waste. The list includes essential items such as batteries, light bulbs and pharmaceuticals, as well as paint and fire extinguishers. [www.makethedrop.ca](http://www.makethedrop.ca) provides a full list.

-Make the drop regularly: Like taking the garbage to the curb once a week, make disposing of these materials part of your routine. Pick a date each month that works for you and your local drop-off location.

Don't be a hazardous hoarder. Make the drop once a month and keep your home clear of harmful household materials.