

# Household Hazardous Waste Worksheet Answer Key

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 3-5 sentences about household hazardous waste (HHW), the three R's principles, and alternatives.

1. Define household hazardous waste. How can you identify a household hazardous product?
2. Based on what you've learned, provide 2-3 examples of common HHW products that you might find around your home. What words on the label might indicate that the product is hazardous?
3. How can you use the 3 R's principles to minimize the impact of household hazardous waste on the environment?
4. What are the health and environmental impacts of hazardous materials and chemicals when they are disposed of in the trash? If the 3 R's principles cannot be used, who should you contact to properly dispose of these materials?

## Answer Key

1. [Household Hazardous Waste](#) is any leftover or used household products that contain chemicals that can present safety concerns if not managed properly and are identified as toxic, corrosive, ignitable, reactive, or is listed in federal regulations as hazardous to health. Hazardous products can be identified by having a label with words like caution, warning, danger, corrosive, reactive, ignitable, or toxic.
2. Some common products often labeled as household hazardous waste include items like all-purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, carpet cleaners, vehicle cleaners, degreasers, furniture polish, fluorescent light bulbs, fuels, gasoline, propane, mercury, paints, pesticides, bug sprays, pool chlorine and acid, and wood stains or varnishes. Hazardous products can be identified by having a label with words like caution, warning, danger, corrosive, reactive, ignitable, or toxic.
3. You can reduce the amount of hazardous waste you generate by only buying what you need, applying pesticides according to the label's directions, use only the recommended amounts, and choose products carefully using the [EPA's Safer Choice Label online tool](#). You can reuse hazardous products by giving them to a neighbor, friend, or family member who needs it once you no longer have a use for it. You can recycle household hazardous waste items at your local HHW Recycling Centers or by using the [TCEQ's guide to recycling resources](#).
4. When these materials are disposed of in the trash, the chemicals can leak through the landfill and contaminate groundwater or other drinking water supplies. For unusable or unrecyclable hazardous products, the best disposal option is to check with your [local waste management authority, environmental agency, or health department](#) to find out if your community offers an HHW collection program or visit TCEQ's [HHW Collection Program by County document](#) to search for one.