

# Detox your Home safe storage guide

## Do you have chemical products you no longer use?

Some of these products could harm you, your children and your pets.

It's also dangerous to throw chemical products out with your regular rubbish collection. The products could explode, ignite, leak or mix with other chemicals. And pouring them down the drain would pollute our waterways, harming animals and vegetation, contaminating our drinking water supply and making rivers and beaches unsafe for swimming.

Detox your Home is a **safe, free and easy-to-use** service to dispose of common household chemicals without harming your health or the environment.

There are 31 Detox your Home mobile collections held across Victoria each year to ensure reasonable access for all Victorian householders.

**You can register for a convenient Detox your Home mobile collection at:**  
[sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)

Use this guide to help you store chemical products safely until you can dispose of them at the next convenient Detox your Home mobile collection.

### Safe storage

- Always handle chemicals carefully and avoid direct contact. Wear gloves and protective clothing where possible and always wash hands after handling.
- Keep chemicals in their original containers and ensure they are tightly closed.
- Check labels for correct storage advice. Some chemicals must not be stored together. For example:
  - Keep corrosive chemicals, such as battery acid, away from poisons.
  - Keep oxidising agents, such as peroxide, away from all other materials.

- Label chemicals that are not in their original container. If you do not know what the chemical is, label it as "Unknown chemical". Do not guess the chemical's name.
- Do not mix chemicals as they may react.
- Regularly check chemical containers are in good condition. If a container is damaged or leaking, place it within a larger, empty container with a tightly fitting lid and label outer container with contents.
- Store chemicals out of reach of children and animals or, if possible, in a locked cupboard or storage unit. Do not store chemicals near food storage areas.
- Keep chemicals out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat, sparks, flames or ignition.

### Safe transportation

On the day of the Detox your Home mobile collection, carefully pack the chemical products into your car, preferably in the boot, and bring them to the collection.

Make sure you follow the following safety precautions when transporting hazardous chemicals to the Detox your Home collection:

- Travel with your car windows down if carrying flammable or odorous chemicals.
- Keep chemicals in original containers.
- Ensure lids are tightly fitted. Protect taps on drums so that the tap does not break off.
- Place containers of liquids in a tray or plastic bucket so that they do not spill or fall.
- Pack powders and solids securely.
- Keep corrosive chemicals, such as battery acid, away from poisons.
- Keep oxidising agents, such as peroxide, away from all other materials.
- Double-wrap old liquid containers in plastic bags to prevent leaking.

### What products are accepted through Detox your Home mobile collections?

You can bring as many of the following products as you like, so long as each container is **less than 20 litres or 20 kilograms**.

- Acids & alkalis
- Aerosols
- Anti-freeze
- Brake fluid
- Car body filler
- Car wax
- Cleaners – ammonia based
- Cooking oil
- Coolant
- Detergents, disinfectants & drain cleaners
- Fertiliser
- Fire extinguishers
- Floor-care products & waxes
- Fuels – petrol, diesel, kerosene, other
- Glues – water-based & solvents
- Herbicides & weed killers
- Insect spray/pesticides
- Nail polish & remover
- Oven cleaner
- Paint stripper, thinner & turps
- Pool chemicals
- Rat poison
- Solvents
- Transmission fluid
- Wood preservatives & finishes (oils & varnish)

### What products are NOT accepted through Detox your Home mobile collections?

- Ammunition or firearms
- Asbestos
- Car batteries
- Chemicals used by businesses
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Farm chemicals
- Gas bottles
- Household batteries\*
- Motor oil
- Paint\*

\*Detox your Home is a free service designed specifically to collect unwanted or out-of-date household chemicals. Household paint, batteries and CFLs – can be disposed of throughout the year at a permanent drop-off site.

For more information on where to dispose of the above products and a list of permanent drop-off sites, visit [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome) or contact your local council.

**For more information visit:**  
**[sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)**

