

KEEPING HHW OUT OF GRAYSON'S WATERWAYS

Gwinnett Water Resources

Some of the products that we use daily can become hazardous to the health of our environment and community if not disposed of properly. Items such as leftover paint, batteries, and cleaning products are examples of common items in our homes that are considered household hazardous waste (HHW). HHW is considered any waste material that is toxic, corrosive, reactive, or flammable.

HHW can harm water quality when it is improperly disposed of by either illegal dumping or illicit discharge into the stormwater drainage system. In either case, rain will wash the HHW into a local waterway. Four different waterways have headwaters in Grayson - Big Haynes Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Tribble Creek, and Bay Creek. That's why residents of Grayson must be careful about how they dispose of HHW!

The easiest way to prevent HHW is to use all of the product! Buy only as much as you need to avoid having leftover material. If you do end up with leftovers, share with neighbors or friends to ensure the product will be used. You can also educate yourself about alternatives to conventional, and potentially toxic, cleaning products. In many cases, these products work just as well and are easier to dispose of. There are also locations that will accept some HHW. Many auto parts stores will accept used motor oil. Some hardware stores will accept light bulbs. There are also retailers that can take old batteries. Just work with your local stores to find a location near you.

Gwinnett County offers two free HHW collection events each year. This event, held in partnership with Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, has served thousands of residents and collected tons of HHW. The materials collected at these events are reused or recycled, with disposal saved as a last resort.

With all of these options for dealing with HHW, it's easy to protect Grayson's waterways. For more information on preventing pollution from HHW, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/household-hazardouswaste>. To find a recycling directory for many types of HHW, or to find information about the next HHW collection event, visit <http://www.gwinnettcg.org/recycling/>.

GwinnettH2O.com