



A Part of Ontario's MHSW Program

Do What You Can is a program to help keep our communities livable and protect our environment through the new Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program.

Here's how the program works and how it affects consumers.

What is the MHSW Program?

The Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) program is a waste diversion plan to divert household hazardous or special waste from landfills, incinerators and our waterways. The program, which has been developed by Stewardship Ontario, will ensure that many of the products we use around our homes that need special care are dealt with in an environmentally appropriate manner when we no longer want or need leftover product or containers.

Who is Stewardship Ontario?

Stewardship Ontario is an industry organization that operates two programs, one for Blue Box materials and the other for Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW).

Stewardship Ontario operates these programs on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario, an agency created by the provincial government to oversee a range of waste diversion programs, authorized under the Waste Diversion Act, 2002.

What is MHSW?

The materials addressed in the MHSW Program are products that we have had around our homes for decades and use everyday. Some of them

have special uses and require special care when we are finished with them.

The MHSW Program is being introduced in phases. Phase 1 includes the following items:

- architectural paints and coatings and their containers
- solvents such as thinners for paint, lacquer and contact cement, paint strippers and degreasers, and their containers
- used oil filters
- oil containers of 30 litres or less for a wide range of oil products such as engine and marine oils, and hydraulic, power steering and transmission fluids
- single use, dry cell batteries, e.g., non-rechargeable batteries that are meant to be removed and replaced by the consumer
- automotive antifreeze (engine coolant) and related containers
- pressurized containers such as propane tanks and cylinders
- fertilizers and pesticides and their containers.

How does the program work?

When consumers take residue materials and their containers to a collection location, Stewardship Ontario does the rest. We ensure it is reused, recycled or disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner. This means less impact on the environment and less demand for shrinking landfill space.

How does the program encourage the 3Rs?

The program follows the 3Rs by first encouraging consumers to think about reducing the amount of waste we generate. You can help by buying only as much of these products as you need to do the job. If you can't use it all up, give the remainder away. Some leftover materials such as paint can be reused and many of the containers can be recycled. Finally, we'll dispose of anything that can't be reused or recycled in a safe manner.

How is the MHSW program funded?

The companies that manufacture and market the materials designated in phase 1 of the program pay a fee to Stewardship Ontario based on the type and quantity of material they introduce into the Ontario marketplace.

Specifically the obligated companies are the brand owners and those that import the designated products into Ontario, including retailers.

What are the fees used for?

All of the fees collected from the obligated companies will be used to develop and implement programs that ensure that leftover MHSW is managed responsibly when it is no longer needed. The funds will be used to pay for collection, transportation, reuse and recycling, processing, research and development and consumer education. None of the fees go to government.

If this cost is being paid by the companies, why am I charged a fee on the products when I buy them?

You may or may not see a fee added to the price of the product. Brand owners may choose to pass the fee onto the retailers and retailers may choose to show the fee separately at the point of sale.

Whether the fee is shown separately or not, you can be sure it is being used exclusively to pay for a province-wide program to manage leftover products and containers in an environmentally responsible manner.

What does this program hope to achieve?

By disposing of these items properly and not putting them out in the regular garbage or pouring them down drains or sewers, we are helping to protect our environment.

Existing programs for hazardous or special waste collect about 16,000 tonnes annually. This new program aims to more than double this diversion over the next five years.

Where can I return/drop off my MHSW?

Stewardship Ontario has developed an interactive website - www.dowhatyoucan.ca - that provides a list of the closest locations where people can take leftover consumer hazardous or special waste.

Your municipality may have collection depots or host collection days. Stewardship Ontario is working with industry to set up more collection locations.

As new locations come on board, they will be added to the *Do What You Can* website.

Why does the program have two names—*Do What You Can* and MHSW?

The Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program is the official name but it's a mouthful. *Do What You Can* recognizes that when it comes to the environment, we all have a role to play. We can all do more to help keep our communities livable through the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle).

Where can I get more information?

Stewardship Ontario
www.stewardshipontario.ca

Customer Service:

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