



The Hidden Dangers of Household Hazardous Waste

PREPARED BY
MAUA YA MLIMA WASTE MANAGEMENT
A YOUTH-LED COMPANY BUILDING A
CLEANER, SAFER KENYA

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Every household produces some form of hazardous waste, items that may seem harmless but contain chemicals that are harmful to people, animals, and the environment when not handled correctly.

What Is Household Hazardous Waste?



Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes products that are toxic, flammable, or corrosive and require special handling.

Common examples include:

- Used batteries – from remotes, toys, torches, or radios
- Electronic waste (e-waste) – old phones, chargers, bulbs, or broken appliances
- Cleaning and disinfectant containers – bleach bottles, sanitizer bottles, and detergent packaging
- Pesticides and insect sprays – for killing mosquitoes or cockroaches
- Leftover paints, varnishes, and thinners
- Expired medicines and personal care products



Why Improper Disposal Is a Problem

When hazardous waste is thrown in the same bin as regular trash, it:

- Releases toxic chemicals into the air, soil, and water
- Puts waste sorters and collectors at risk of burns, poisoning, or injuries
- Makes sorting and recycling harder, since hazardous waste contaminates recyclable materials
- Damages recycling equipment and increases disposal costs

Safe Disposal Tips for Every Home

- **Identify hazardous items** – Read product labels for warnings like “toxic,” “flammable,” or “corrosive.”
- **Store safely** – Keep them in original containers, tightly closed, and away from children or heat.
- **Never mix or burn waste** – Combining chemicals or burning batteries can release poisonous gases.
- **Separate hazardous waste from normal trash** – Use a labeled container for batteries, disinfectant bottles, and e-waste.
- **Use professional services** – Contact Maua ya Mlima Waste Management for proper collection and disposal.





Maua ya Mlima's Commitment

As a youth-led waste management company, Maua ya Mlima is committed to creating awareness about responsible household waste handling. We provide:

- Safe collection of hazardous household waste
- Community education and sensitization programs
- Eco-friendly disposal and recycling solutions

We believe that when households handle hazardous waste responsibly, we protect both the environment and the workers who keep our cities clean.



Look around your home; separate your batteries, e-waste, and cleaning product containers from normal waste.

Together, let's support our sorters, protect our environment, and build a safer, cleaner Kenya.