

# ABOUT DETOX YOUR HOME EVENTS

## What is Detox your Home?

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.

You can reduce the risk of poisoning, environmental pollution and bushfire hazards and improve recycling rates by dropping off unwanted chemicals at a free Detox your Home event.

## When are Detox your Home mobile collections held?

There are up to 33 Detox your Home events held across Victoria each year to ensure reasonable access for all Victorian householders.

A full list of upcoming Detox your Home events is available at [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)

## What products are accepted through Detox your Home?

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**. Decanting is not permitted so bring chemicals in disposable containers.

- Acids & alkalis
- Aerosols (empty cans with household recycling)
- 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
- Thinner, turps & paint stripper
- Pool chemicals
- Rat poison
- Solvents
- Transmission fluid
- Wood preservatives & finishes (oils & varnish)

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

- Ammunition or firearms – contact WorkSafe Victoria: 1800 136 089
- Asbestos – contact the Environment Protection Authority: 1300 372 842
- Car batteries – contact your local council
- Chemicals used by businesses – check the Yellow Pages under 'waste reduction and disposal services' to find a chemical disposal company or you can visit [businessrecycling.com.au](https://businessrecycling.com.au)
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) – take fluorescent lights to a permanent drop-off site or contact your local council
- Farm chemicals – contact the ChemClear service: 1800 008 182 or visit [chemclear.com.au](https://chemclear.com.au)
- Gas bottles – contact your local council
- Household batteries – take batteries to your local Aldi, Officeworks, Bunnings or Batteryworld store or drop them off at a permanent drop-off site
- Motor oil – contact your local council or visit Planet Ark's Recycling Near You website at [recyclingnearyou.com.au](https://recyclingnearyou.com.au)
- Paint – take paint to a permanent drop-off site or visit a Paintback site

Visit [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome) for more information. A full list of permanent drop-off sites is also available at [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)

## Do I have to pay to use this service?

No. Detox your Home is a free service for all Victorians. It is administered by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with local councils and is funded by the Victorian landfill levy.

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

## Why isn't there a Detox your Home event in my municipality?

There are up to 33 Detox your Home events held in central locations across Victoria each year to ensure a consistent, regular service.

Instead of conducting council-based events, as was the case in the past, all host councils and neighbouring councils now work together to deliver the service and ensure that all Victorian householders have reasonable access to the Detox your Home service.

Victorian householders can attend any of the Detox your Home events conducted across Victoria each year, no matter where they live.

A list of upcoming Detox your Home events is available at [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)

## What should I do with the chemicals until there is a Detox your Home event near to where I live?

Safely store the unwanted items in a secure area that can't be accessed by children and pets. You should also follow the guidelines below:

- Always handle household chemicals carefully and avoid direct contact. Wear gloves where possible.
- Check the label for correct storage advice.
- Store the unwanted items away from heat and moisture.
- Never mix household chemicals or pour them into other containers.
- Ensure lids are tightly fitted.
- Download our [Safe Storage Guide](#) for clear instructions on how to store household chemicals until your next Detox your Home event.

## Will the Detox your Home events be cancelled if there is bad weather?

The Detox your Home events will only be cancelled if a Code Red Fire Warning is declared in your area, in which case it will be rescheduled for a later date.

# HOW TO USE DETOX YOUR HOME EVENTS

## What do householders need to do?

Detox your Home is easy and it's free. Select your most convenient event location, for some metropolitan areas you need to register online or over the phone, then turn up on the day – and we'll do the rest. For regional areas – simply turn up on the day.

Registration is required for some metropolitan areas to manage the traffic flow and avoid queues on the day, which means you can get in and out quickly. Register now to choose your preferred time slot.

## How do I bring the chemicals to the collection?

On the day of the collection, carefully pack the chemical products into your car and bring them to the Detox your Home event. A trained team will dispose of them safely and for free.

## Tips to safely transport chemicals

- Travel with your car windows open if you have flammable materials or chemicals that smell.
- Keep chemicals in their original containers.
- Check lids are on tight.
- Put containers in a plastic tray or bucket so they do not spill.
- Double wrap old containers in plastic bags to prevent leaks.
- Keep corrosive chemicals, such as battery acid, away from poisons.
- Keep oxidising agents, such as peroxide, away from all other materials.
- Pack powders and solids securely.

## What do I do if I'm not sure what some of the chemicals are?

Label it as 'Unknown Chemical'.  
Do not guess what the chemical might be.

## Do I have to register?

Registration is required for some metropolitan areas to manage the traffic flow and avoid queues on the day, which means you can get in and out quickly. Register now to choose your preferred time slot.

Registration is not required for regional areas, simply turn up on the day and we'll do the rest.

**You can register online at:**  
**[sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)**  
**or by calling 1300 363 744**

# WHY DETOX YOUR HOME EVENTS ARE IMPORTANT

## Why do we need the Detox your Home events?

Household chemicals can be dangerous. They can harm your family and your pets, add extra fuel to a house fire, release toxic fumes and damage the environment. Detox your Home mobile events allow you to dispose of these potentially hazardous products in a safe and easy manner. The collected items are recovered and diverted from landfill.

## Why are household chemicals dangerous?

Household chemicals can harm your children and pets, which is why it is important to dispose of any unwanted or out-of-date household chemicals you have in your home, shed and garage.

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 will pollute our waterways, harming animals and vegetation, contaminating our drinking water supply and making rivers and beaches unsafe for swimming.

While the dangers associated with improper disposal of chemical products can't always be seen straight away, these products can pollute the environment for future generations, as well as harm their health.

Do the right thing for your loved ones and your environment and Detox your Home. It's easy and it's free.

## Why don't you do a street collection like you do with hard waste?

Chemicals pose a safety hazard if left on the street awaiting collection.

## Why can't I put household chemicals out with my regular rubbish collection?

Putting household chemicals in your regular rubbish bins is dangerous. The products could explode, ignite, leak or mix with other chemicals.

It's also dangerous to pour chemicals down the drain. The chemicals could pollute our waterways, harming animals and vegetation, contaminating our drinking water supply and making rivers and beaches unsafe for swimming.

## What happens to the chemicals after they are collected at the event?

They are immediately sorted, placed in sealed drums and transported to a specialist waste treatment facility. Every effort is made to recycle chemicals or use them for other purposes such as energy recovery. In fact, at least 90% of the collected materials are recovered. As a last resort, a small amount of chemicals will be stored in secure landfills, in accordance with EPA Victoria requirements.



# ABOUT PERMANENT DROP-OFF SITES

## What is a permanent drop-off site?

Permanent drop-off sites are specifically designed to collect household paint, batteries and fluorescent lights for free. The sites are typically located at council owned transfer stations or resource recovery centres.

The collected items are recovered and diverted from landfill.

## When can I access the permanent drop-off sites?

You can drop off household paint, batteries, and fluorescent lights at permanent drop-off sites throughout the year. Contact your local council for more information.

## Where are Victorian drop-off sites located?

There are 30 permanent drop-off sites across metropolitan and regional Victoria. A full list of permanent drop-off sites is available at [sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome)

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