

## How to Reduce Solid Waste

Choose products with the least amount of unnecessary packaging.



Buy reusable products whenever possible to replace disposable cups, plates, etc.



When purchasing products, look for things made from recycled materials.



Donate or sell goods when you're done using them rather than throwing them out.



Compost yard waste and food when possible.



Fix things instead of throwing them out.

## Any Questions or Concerns?

**Contact the Tribal Environmental Office at  
951.654.5544  
Ext. 4129 or 4130**



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## Solid Waste



**Useful Information  
to Help Keep Our  
Environment Safe  
and Clean**

**Soboba Tribal  
Environmental Department  
951.654.5544 ext. 4129/4130**

## What is Solid Waste?

Solid waste refers to things that are thrown away. It can include garbage, also known as municipal solid waste (e.g., milk cartons and coffee grounds); refuse (e.g., metal scrap and empty containers); sludge from waste treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or pollution control facilities; nonhazardous industrial wastes (e.g., manufacturing process wastewaters); other discarded materials, including solid, semisolid, liquid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial and commercial activities

Some solid waste can be classified as hazardous if it is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. These can include chemicals, lubricants, oil, or heavy metals. Some of the dangers of hazardous waste can include fires, explosions, health effects, and contamination of the environment.

Solid waste is most commonly placed in landfills. This takes up valuable space and can cause environmental damage if not properly covered and contained.



## Electronic Waste



Electronics are complex devices which are made of a wide variety of materials. Some of these, such as lead, nickel, cadmium, and mercury, could pose risks to human health or the environment if mismanaged.

E waste includes items such as:

- Laptops, desktops, monitors, keyboards, mice, CRT and flat panel TVs, printers, fax machines, and cell phones

According to the EPA, in 2009 there were

- 438 million new electronics sold;
- 5 million tons of electronics in storage;
- 2.37 million tons of electronics ready for end-of-life management;
- 25% of these tons recycled

It is important to recycle electronics whether they are being replaced or aren't working. Here are some resources if you have old or unused electronics:

### US EPA

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/ecycling/index.htm>

### California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/ReuseRecycle/>

Riverside County Waste Management  
(951) 486-3200 or

[http://www.rivcowm.org/openscms/recycling/recycling\\_at\\_landfills.html#electronic](http://www.rivcowm.org/openscms/recycling/recycling_at_landfills.html#electronic)

## Household Hazardous Waste

Unused household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste." Paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, used medical waste, and pesticides contain potentially hazardous ingredients that require special care when you dispose of them.

Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

There are several options for safe household hazardous waste disposal. For additional information:

<http://www.rivcowm.org/openscms/hhw/index.html> for a schedule of collection events

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/HHW.cfm> for

California HHW information  
<http://earth911.com/> for places that recycle HHW and other waste

