



# STUCK AT HOME AND CLEANING OUT YOUR HOUSE?

*How to safely store or dispose of unwanted items during the COVID-19 pandemic*

Across Missouri, municipal trash and recycling programs, Household Hazardous Waste collection, and other recycling and disposal services are changing how they operate or temporarily closing due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Here's what you need to know to safely navigate disposal and recycling:

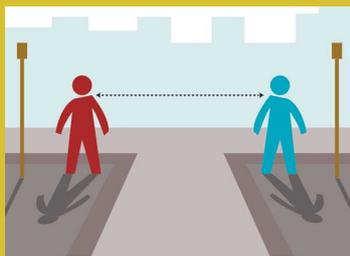


## Always Call Ahead

Many programs are temporarily suspended throughout MO.

To find out if your program is still operating, contact your local Solid Waste Management District.

To find your local District's contact info, visit the link below!



## Respect Social Distancing Rules

If your trash, recycling, HHW or other drop-off center is open, be sure to respect social distancing rules by staying at least 6 feet away from staff and other residents dropping off materials.

Your program may have additional policies, such as a no-touch policy for staff – be sure to carefully read any posted signage and respect safety precautions.



## Safely Store Materials

If your local program is closed, safely store any materials in a basement, shed, or secure area – keep them away from children and pets. HHW and medications should be stored in original containers or other containers that are closed, in good condition and protected from the elements. If you're moving soon and need to offload materials, see if a friend can hold onto them for you until a collection event. Whatever you do, don't throw them in the trash!

To find your local District's contact info, visit <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/swmd/swmdinfo.htm>

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## REGULAR TRASH COLLECTION:

Most trash collection services around the state are operating as usual, though may be experiencing delays due to reduced staffing. If you have noticed a change in your trash pickup services and aren't sure why, contact your local Solid Waste Management District to find out more. Be sure to follow local guidance on safety precautions, as some programs have new requirements for keeping trash contained to protect sanitation workers. As always, DO NOT dispose of medical sharps or leftover drugs in your household trash.

## REGULAR RECYCLING COLLECTION:

Some recycling programs across the state have been suspended for the time being. Contact your local Solid Waste Management District to find out if your program is still operating. Ask about storing materials so they can be collected when services resume. You can safely wash and store any household recyclables, but some programs may not be equipped for increased volumes in the future. Your local drop-off center may have implemented no-touch rules or recalled staff who provide assistance – call ahead if you will need help, and be sure to respect social distancing rules and any other safety measures.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Many HHW collection events have been postponed or cancelled across Missouri, and some drop-off sites remain closed. Before attempting to drop off HHW materials, such as latex paint, household chemicals, or batteries, contact your Solid Waste Management District to get the latest information on collection events or drop-off options in your community. If drop-off is unavailable, safely store HHW materials in a basement, shed, or secure area away from children and pets.

DO NOT flush, dump, or dispose of HHW materials in your regular trash.

## LEFTOVER MEDICATIONS:

The safest way to dispose of leftover medications is to return them to a pharmacy or law enforcement drop-off site. Many drug take-back sites exist throughout Missouri, but they may be closed temporarily due to the pandemic. Call your local pharmacy or law enforcement office to ask if they accept leftover medications. If not, secure them in a locked cabinet away from children and pets. DO NOT flush or bury leftover drugs or dispose of them in your regular household trash.



St. Louis-Jefferson Solid  
Waste Management District  
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