

Fire Extinguisher Disposal

CCFD6 does not accept fire extinguishers to be disposed of or refilled. Extinguishers need to be taken to a place that disposes of household hazardous waste.

With four basic types of fire extinguishers – dry chemical, water, carbon dioxide and halon – each extinguisher works for specific fires based on its classification label. The classification label defines the fire types it is meant to douse. Classification labels include "A" for wood, paper and ordinary flammables, "B" for liquid flammables, such as greases, gasoline and oils, "C" for electrical fires, "D" for flammable metals, and "K" for commercial restaurants and cooking fires. Some extinguishers may have multiple label ratings.

Most fire extinguisher will contain water, carbon dioxide, dry chemicals, or halon. But be particularly careful when handling and disposing of older fire extinguishers. Extinguishers made prior to 1960 are often valued by collectors but can be very dangerous.

These extinguishers may contain carbon tetrachloride. Carbon tetrachloride works extremely well as a fire extinguisher but is a known carcinogen. Exposure can be fatal if enough of the chemical is inhaled or absorbed through the skin. When heated, carbon tetrachloride produces phosgene – more commonly known as nerve gas. Use extreme caution when handling and transporting older fire extinguishers.

Household Hazardous Waste

To identify potentially hazardous products, look for words on the product label such as poison, danger, warning, caution, or flammable. Most household hazardous wastes are generated from one of the following categories:

Automotive Products: oil, antifreeze, gasoline, brake, and transmission fluid

Household Cleaners: oven cleaners, drain cleaners, disinfectants, laundry products

Paints and Solvents: latex and oil-based paint, thinners, varnishes, wood preservatives

Poisons/Pesticides: fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, and rodenticides

Days and hours for free HHW drop off varies - check locations and call before you make the drive.

[Central Hazardous Waste Facility](#)

11034 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98686
[360-256-8482](tel:360-256-8482)

[Washougal Hazardous Waste Facility](#)

4020 S. Grant Street, Washougal, WA 98671
[360-835-2500](tel:360-835-2500)

[West Van Hazardous Waste Facility](#)

6601 NW Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660
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