



# Sheboygan County Planning & Resources Department

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

December 22, 2009,

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## **Sheboygan County Establishes 2010 Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule**

Sheboygan County, in partnership with other surrounding counties, has once again obtained a grant to partially fund hazardous waste collection efforts in 2010 for residents, farms, and small businesses. Recognizing the importance of this program and continually expanding use, the Sheboygan County Board of Supervisors also increased the hazardous waste budget by \$15,000 for 2010.

Car batteries, waste motor oil, tires, latex paint, smoke detectors, and waste medications will not be accepted at these collection events. Waste medications can be delivered to the permanent drop off box in the foyer of the City of Sheboygan Police Department. County-wide waste medication collection events are also held during the first Saturday every October.

The attached schedule and maps describe what types of hazardous wastes will be accepted, what items require a fee to be paid for recycling, and when and where the collection days will be held.

Citizens are encouraged to carpool to the collection sites or to otherwise have a single vehicle deliver household hazardous wastes to the collection sites from several families, friends, or neighbors to reduce the number of vehicles that arrive during collection days. This will help make the collection days go more quickly and smoothly.

Last year, a few people that did not want to wait in line like their patient neighbors did for this free service dumped their hazardous wastes before the scheduled event or even at another location. This dangerous practice cannot be tolerated. Improper disposal and abandonment of hazardous waste, even household hazardous waste, is a state and federal crime. Hazardous contents of containers may leak, there may be health risks to people exposed to these materials, and environmental pollution may result. Some household hazardous wastes, when mixed or in close proximity can ignite, explode, or give off dangerous gases. Increased patrols will be in effect before collection events and other means of surveillance will be implemented to deter such dangerous behavior from uncaring people. People who do not recognize the value of this service without direct cost to them may arrange to have other pick ups from private contractors, but there will be substantial direct costs for doing so. County taxpayers or the grant will not pay for expensive private collections. People wishing to obtain private collection of hazardous wastes can call the Planning and Resources Department for contact information.

Jack Van Dixhorn, County Board Supervisor and Chair of the County Board's Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee is pleased that Sheboygan County can once again provide these services to residents. "By funding this hazardous waste program through grants and County funds, we keep dangerous wastes out of the environment and from possibly harming human health. Just one

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episode of improper or illegal disposal could cost far more to clean up than the entire budget for collection and proper disposal,” Van Dixhorn stated.

“There is much attention paid lately to properly disposing of waste electronics like the County has been doing for years” added Jim Hulbert, Director of the Sheboygan County Planning and Resources Department. “As of January 1<sup>st</sup> in 2010, waste electronics must be recycled in Wisconsin. We want to assure all residents that electronic wastes that are collected by the County are in fact recycled as much as possible, up to 99% of each appliance or gadget. Such attention to maximum recycling rather than landfilling requires a fee to pay for the labor and machinery necessary for such collection and recycling, and for marketing and transporting the various separated components to end users across the country. Beware of those facilities that claim to recycle waste electronics for no fee or a nominal charge if you really want to be a good environmental steward and recycle as much of your outdated or worn-out electronics as possible. These outlets may satisfy legal requirements by minimal recycling while still relying on landfilling for primary disposal, or worse yet, shipping them out of state. ”

“Most other hazardous wastes that cannot be recycled are generally incinerated at a facility in Port Arthur, Texas” Van Dixhorn added. “There are no suitable hazardous waste disposal facilities anywhere in Wisconsin.”

For more information, please contact Jim Hulbert at 920-459-3765.

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