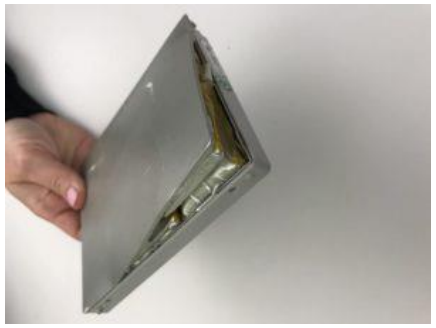
HOW DO I GET RID OF _____?

(*fill in the blank*)



Careful Consuming & Disposal

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March 2021

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

SOME TYPICAL & WEIRD STUFF
(Yes, these were actual inquiries)

- ❑Credit cards and gift cards
- ❑Neon light tubes
- ❑Damaged batteries
- ❑Firecrackers (unused)
- ❑Pantyhose
- ❑Smoke Alarms
- ❑Knives
- ❑Citronella candles
- ❑Dialysis sugar water
- ❑Xrays
- ❑Garage door opener
- ❑Razor blades
- ❑Perfume
- ❑DVDs, VHS tapes, CDs
- ❑Microwave ovens
- ❑Paint
- ❑Styrofoam cooler
- ❑Plastic trash Toter®/cart

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Objectives:

Describe where recycling fits in the waste hierarchy and explain why.

Gain knowledge of responsible disposal practices for some common and uncommon products and materials.

Commit to making one change to reduce solid waste at the source.

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ZERO WASTE PLAN

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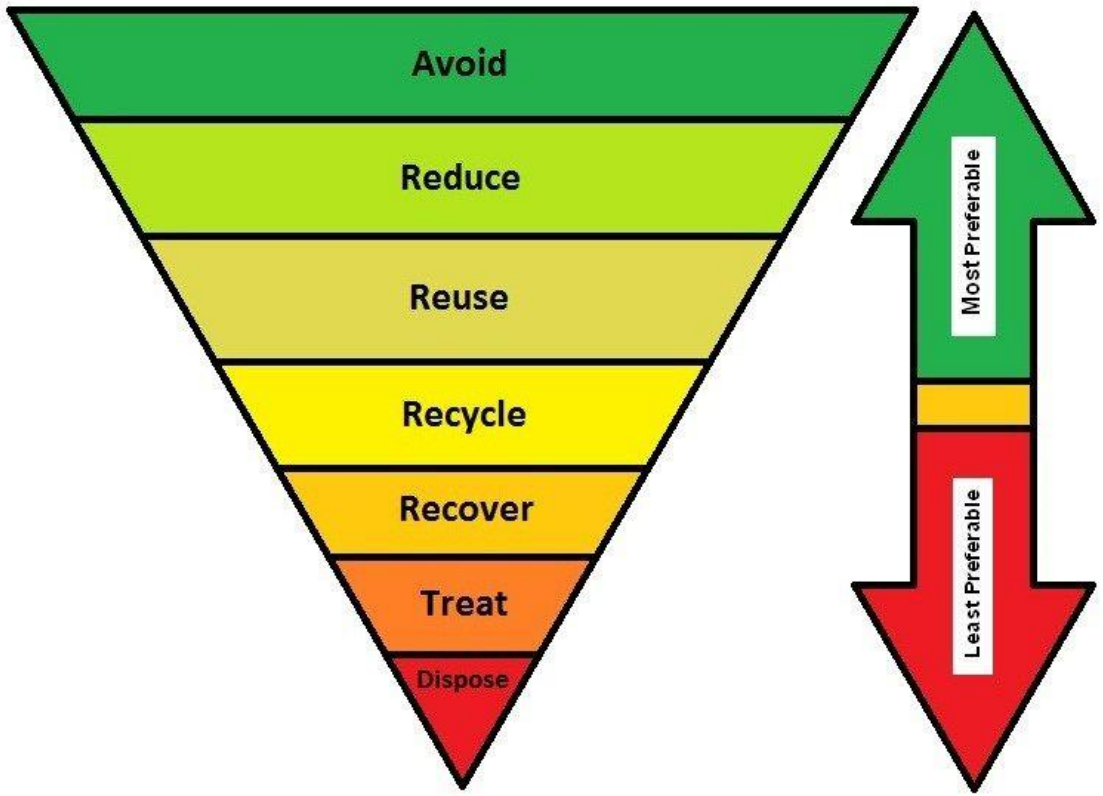
ZERO WASTE

- Is a concept, a big idea, and a goal to encourage practices that sustain resources
- Starts at the beginning, not the end
- Should make you REthink, REact, and REduce solid waste and minimize environmental impacts
- Changing one or two habits can make a difference

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY

A SIMILAR VERSION



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Words that identify HHW

(Household Hazardous Waste)

- ✓CORROSIVE (will rust or decay)
- ✓FLAMMABLE (ignitable; solid or liquid)
- ✓REACTIVE (potentially explosive, OXIDIZER)
- ✓TOXIC (poison)

A good number to have on hand: Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

TEXT “POISON” to 797979, and you can automatically add it to your contacts.

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Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Oil-based paints, stains, varnishes
- ✓ Rechargeable batteries
- ✓ Pesticides – solid & liquid
- ✓ Solvents
- ✓ Antifreeze
- ✓ Fluorescent (CFL) light tubes/bulbs
- ✓ Swimming pool chemicals
- ✓ Fire extinguishers
- ✓ Small (2lb.) propane cylinders
- ✓ Gasoline
- ✓ Mercury thermostats and thermometers

Unacceptable materials include, but are not limited to:

- Latex (water-based) paint (solidify and put in trash)
- Alkaline batteries (AA, C, D, etc.- place in trash)
- TVs, computers, appliances and any electronics
- Radioactive waste
- Medical and infectious waste
- Explosives and ammunition
- Tires
- Gas cylinders
- Propane tanks larger than 2 lb.
- Smoke detectors
- Unidentified waste

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AT HHW EVENTS,

WE DO NOT ACCEPT

- TVS
- COMPUTERS
- ELECTRONICS
- APPLIANCES

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR HANDLING THESE MATERIALS.

https://www.chestercountyswa.org/

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

CHESTER COUNTY'S HHW PROGRAM

- Events since 1998
- About 5M lb. collected
- Sharing agreements with Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Philadelphia counties
- Households bring avg. 64-75 lbs., at an avg. cost of $1.00/lb.
- PA DEP partial reimbursement
- **Registration is required** – helps to manage wait times, staffing needs
- Check CCSWA website or your municipal website for info

How You Can Help

- CHECK PAINT TYPES! LEAVE LATEX PAINTS AT HOME! (TRASH)
- NO ELECTRONICS!
- Stay in your car!
- Keep HHW in original containers as much as possible
- Ask a neighbor if you can take their HHW (less cars on road) – Note the weight limits 220 lb. or 25 gal.
- Plan your household cleanouts when there are events scheduled (April – October)
- If you want a container (eg. gasoline) returned to you, tape a big note to it, and contractor will return to you.

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YOU MUST REGISTER FOR HHW COLLECTION EVENTS! VISIT OUR WEBSITE PAGE TO REGISTER:

https://www.chestercountyswa.org/121/Upcoming-Household-Hazardous-Waste-Event

SAFETY FIRST!
We are still employing public health restrictions.

- **ALL MATERIAL MUST BE IN TRUNK/BED AREA OF YOUR VEHICLE. STAFF WILL REMOVE.**
- **STAY IN YOUR CAR.**
- **FOLLOW TRAFFIC AS YOU ARE DIRECTED.**
- **PLEASE WEAR A MASK AS WE ARE STILL FOLLOWING PANDEMIC GUIDELINES.**
- **DRIVE SLOWLY!**
- **WATCH FOR ANY PEDESTRIANS!**

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

- ❑ **You must register for an event time slot online through our website. Please come within your time slot.**
- ❑ **The participation and volumes we receive are variable, so please be patient.**
- ❑ **How can you help? Follow our event signs and instructions for a safe event.**

* Only bring the acceptable materials.
* Keep all materials in trunk/bed.
* STAY IN YOUR CAR!
* Limit of 25 gallons or 220 pounds
* If you have questions, please use our website https://www.chestercountyswa.org/ to email or call us.

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

General HHW Safety

MERCURY (Sources=Broken FL bulbs, thermostats, thermometers)

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (913)669-3924

Never use vacuum or broom; never pour down drain; never launder contaminated clothing. Get people & pets out. Let FRESH air in, not A/C. Put on rubber or latex gloves. Use cardboard to slowly roll bead onto paper, place in zip top bag and close bag. Use duct tape to collect smaller beads.

Use flashlight in darkened room to find more beads. Remove contaminated carpet and trash it. If on your skin or clothing, wipe off beads with wet paper towels. Put all items in trash bag and label. Keep outside of house. Take to HHW.

POOL CHEMICALS

Never mix pool chemicals.

Store in cool, DRY, well ventilated place, away from direct sunlight and heat source. Away from people and pets.

Keep them dry. Do not add water to the chemicals. (Only add the chemicals to water.)

Acids and chlorine can eat away at thin containers. Use up the chemicals properly.

Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

BATTERY FAQS

Primary cell construction = single use; NOT rechargeable
Secondary cell construction = a battery that can be recharged multiple times

*WHAT CAUSES A LITHIUM-ION BATTERY TO CATCH FIRE?

Inside a Li-ion battery, there are tiny metal pieces floating in liquid, and the contents are under pressure. So, if the battery is punctured, or if metal fragments migrate, the lithium reacts with water in the air. This creates high temperatures and may produce a fire.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY BATTERY IS BAD?

Signs that your battery is near the end of its life include:

- It does not hold a charge well.
- It will not perform like it used to.
- It gets very warm during a charge.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH A DAMAGED OR LEAKING BATTERY?

Place the battery in a bucket or plastic bag and surround the battery in non-flammable material such as kitty litter, soil, or sand as soon as you can. Do NOT place the battery in your recycling bin or trash can. Treat as Household Hazardous Waste.

Li-ion batteries that overheat, are swollen or bulging, are discolored, deformed, or have an odor, should immediately be isolated from heat sources and other batteries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
https://www.call2recycle.org/nbd2019/#:~:text=Get%20Charged%20Up%20for%20National,their%20end%2Dof%2Dlife.

https://www.call2recycle.org/

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SMOKE DETECTORS/SMOKE ALARMS

There are generally two types of smoke detectors:

- *Photoelectric* detectors use a laser to detect smoke.
- I*onization* types have a small amt of radioactive material (Americium 241, or Am-241) that creates chemical reaction with smoke.

Most smoke detectors in homes today are ionization because they are less expensive.

They should be sent back to the manufacturer or to a reputable service for recycling and proper disposal. Options include:

Contact the manufacturer

Please look on the back of the smoke detector or manual for more information on where to send them. Some manufacturers may not accept them, and/or they may only accept their own brand.

Mail-back option:

- Curie Environmental Services https://www.curieservices.com/smoke-alarm-recycling/
- EZ on the Earth https://ezontheearth.com/product-category/smoke-detectors/
- The US Postal Service offers instructions on a Postal Bulletin (as of Oct. 2019) https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22334/html/cover_025.htm

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Are there better options than disposal?

- Do you really need it? How much do you need?
- How is product or packaging handled at end of usefulness?
- Buy smaller quantities
- Share large quantities
- Try to use up
- Substitute less toxic, harmful products
- Remove the reason you need it in the first place
- Can it be repaired?

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THINK BEFORE YOU BUY!

Instead of buying this…	Try this…
Drain cleaner	Combinations of baking soda, lemon juice, vinegar, salt
Oven cleaner	baking soda, vinegar
Fluorescent light bulbs	LED bulbs
Insecticides	IPM=integrated pest management (physical barriers, cleanliness, biological control, etc.) https://extension.psu.edu/pesticides-and-alternatives
Aerosol air fresheners	Scented candles, potpourri

Just google it:

- HGTV.com
- ewg.org (Environmental Working Group)
- thespruce.com
- You tube DIY videos

Not an endorsement of any product or website

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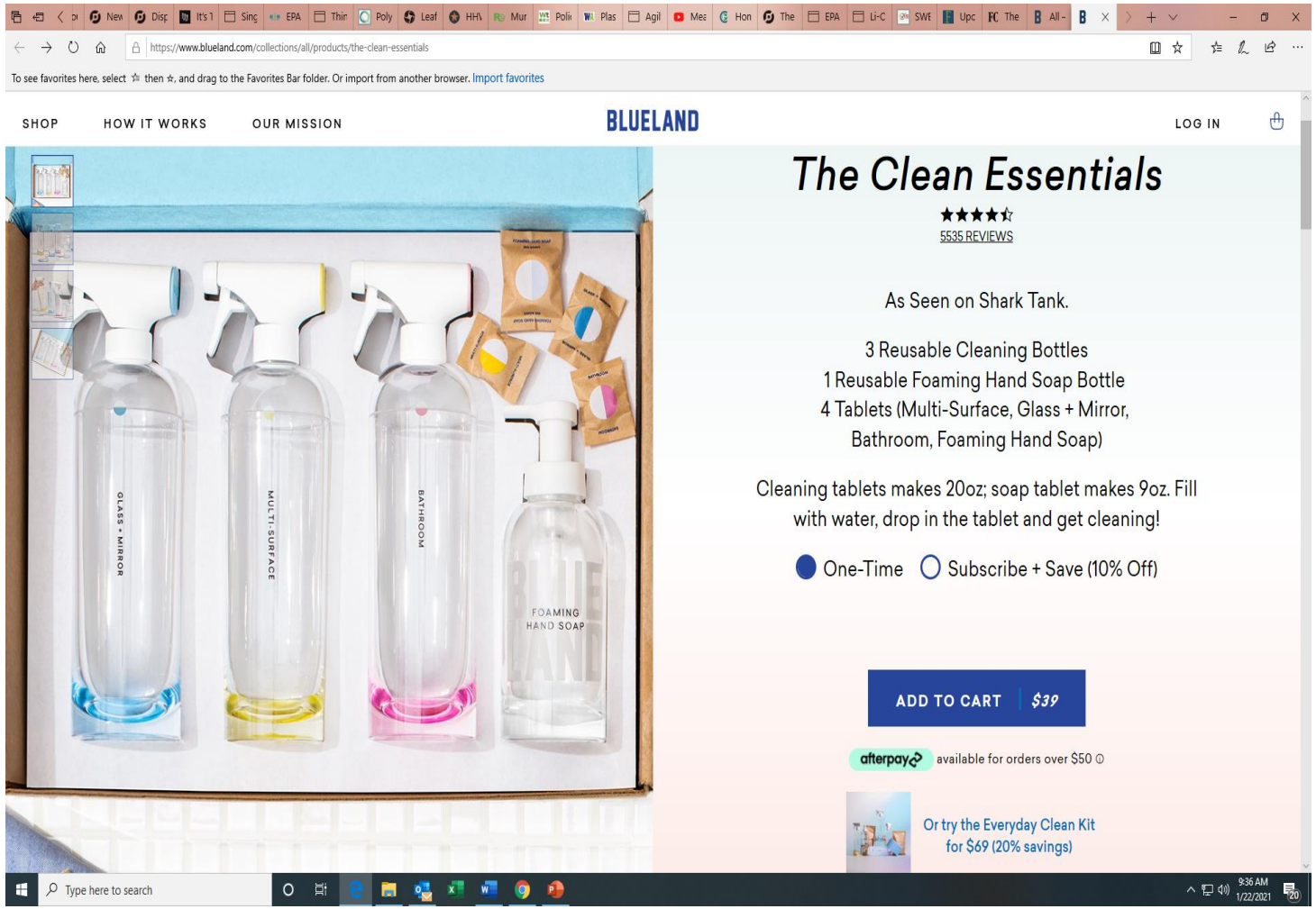
Innovative, less harmful cleaning products



<u>One example:</u>
Cleancult.com – soaps and cleaning mixtures of all natural ingredients

Common Good products

Pay attention to packaging – is it recyclable where you live? Is it made from recycled materials? <u>Beware of "compostable" packaging – your recycling hauler is not going to a composting facility!</u>

Not an endorsement of any product or website

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

How do I get rid of _____?

(SLF= Lanchester Small Load Facility; residents only)

NONE OF THESE GO IN YOUR RECYLING BIN!	DISPOSAL OPTIONS
Mattress, box spring	Trash hauler; SLF $25/mattress or box spring
Styrofoam™	SLF (1) 13 gal. bag/trip; no large pieces; no peanuts or sheets
Batteries	Alkaline-goes in trash Dry rechargeable – Lowe's, Home Depot; SLF; HHW Lead acid (car)- retailer or HHW event
CFL, fluorescent light bulbs	HHW; Lowe's, Home Depot Up to (5) at SLF
TVs, computers, computer peripherals *PA law prohibits these from landfill*	At SLF: Max. of (3) total items; no charge
Electronics other than TVs, computers	Repair? Donate? Unless your municipality hosts an event, these are trash.
Latex (wall) paint	Kitty litter, paint hardener; place in trash w/o lid

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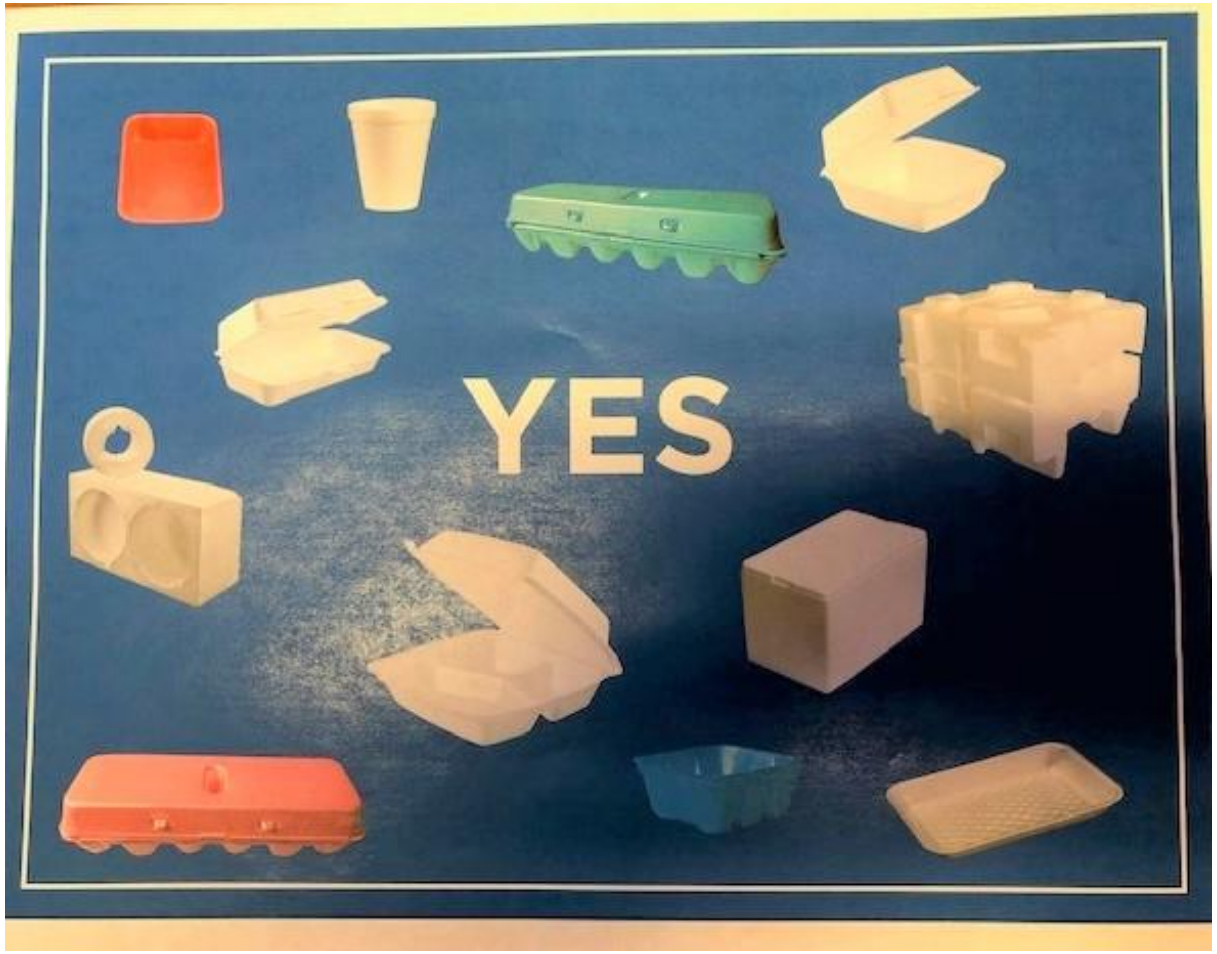
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (brand name Styrofoam™)

Styrofoam™ will break. If indents like sponge, not Styrofoam™

ACCEPTABLE AT LANCHESTER DROP OFF



NOT ACCEPTABLE AT LANCHESTER DROP OFF

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

How do I get rid of _____?

(SLF= Lanchester Small Load Facility; residents only)

NONE OF THESE GO IN YOUR RECYLING BIN! NONE OF THESE GO TO HHW EVENT!	DISPOSAL OPTIONS
Plastic bags	Grocery stores; start saving for EG's TREX recycling challenge
Unused Medicines	*Solids/pills/Liquids https://www.chesco.org/2673/Medication-Drop-Off; Or mix with coffee grounds or cat litter in plastic bag & put in trash. *FDA has a "Flush List" https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines
Sharps (home generated needles) X-rays (contain silver)	**Sharps-** into puncture resistant container (coffee can or plastic laundry bottle); tape shut; label SHARPS; goes in trash **X-rays** – Contact Radiology or Dx Imaging facility
Smoke alarms, detectors (most are ionization with small amount radioactivity)	CCSWA website- Manufacturer or mail back https://www.chestercountyswa.org/DocumentCenter/View/2366/SMOKE-ALARM-DISPOSAL-102020
Air conditioners, dehumidifers	SLF $20 fee so we can remove Freon™
Microwave ovens	SLF scrap metal OR other scrap metal dealer; may go in trash
Shredded paper	NOT IN RECYCLING BIN!! Trash ok SLF – put in our mixed paper bin

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https://files.dep.state.pa.us/waste/recycling/RecyclingPortalFiles/Documents/UniqueRecyclables.pdf

PA DEP list of “Unique Recyclables” – needs a little updating

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

We accept books for reuse and recycling

GOT BOOKS YOU DON'T WANT?

DROP THEM OFF AT THE LANCHESTER LANDFILL RECYCLING FACILITY.

We accept books in **good, readable condition that have an ISBN barcode label** on the book cover (or back).

HARDCOVER
SOFTCOVER
TEXTBOOKS

NO BAGS OR BOXES IN THE BOOK BIN!
ONLY LOOSE BOOKS, PLEASE!

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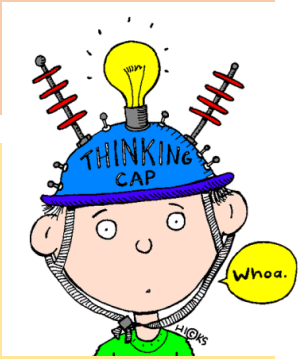
Consequences of pandemic



Realizations and facts

- “Pandemic fatigue”
- Increase in spending for goods
  (Consumer durables higher in 2020 than pre-pandemic)
- Increase in e-commerce, packaging delivery
- “Look at how much food I’ve been wasting”

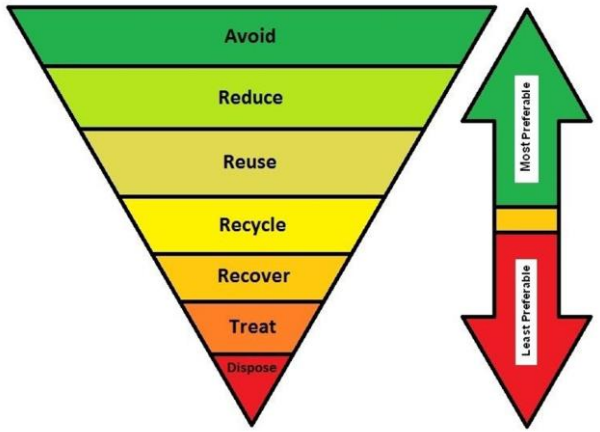
Opportunities

- Satisfying personal rewards without buying more stuff
- Needs vs. wants
- Precautionary principle “buyer beware”
- Enhanced skills in cooking and food storage

CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

We are not California.
This is a photo of a *recycling* cart in San Francisco.

Recycling is **local**.
Recycling is behavior.
Recycling is **after.**
Recycling is in middle of hierarchy.



Source reduction is **universal**.
Source reduction is behavior.
Source reduction is **before**.
Source reduction is at the top of the waste hierarchy.

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WHAT'S THE MESSAGE HERE?

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THANK YOU!
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- **What ONE change can you make to reduce waste in your household?**
- **In your workplace?**
- **That you can convince other family and friends to do?**

- **Will you help spread the word? Be an ambassador for the Chester County environment.**

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