

FAQs from the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources

www.ncdenr.org

Where can I get information about the health effects associated with asbestos?

If asbestos fibers are released into the air they may be inhaled and cause serious respiratory and other health problems. For information, contact the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Hazards Control Unit. Telephone: (919) 707-5950. Web site: www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/asbestos.html.

What do I do with my old, outdated computer and electronic equipment?

Technology advancements in the computer and electronic equipment industry occur so quickly that they can become outdated almost overnight. Much of this equipment, or parts, can be recycled in some manner. For information about recycling and disposal of computers, [click here](#). For similar information about electronics, use the following Web site: portal.ncdenr.org/web/deao/recycling/electronics.

Who do I contact if I have a problem with my drinking water or want my well water tested?

For individual or "private" wells, contact your local health department. Check the following Web site for a list of county health department staff:

<http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/images/ehsdir2000.PDF>.

If you are on a community water system (which means there are at least 15 connections or 25 or more people), then contact the water system operator or the regional staff of the Public Water Supply Section (PWSS) in the Division of Environmental Health. A list of PWSS regional staff by county can be found online at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/counties.htm>.

Where can I find environmental, regulatory and disposal information for fluorescent lights?

Even though fluorescent lights require some amount of mercury to function, using high-efficiency fluorescents saves energy and actually results in a net reduction in

mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. The recycling and disposal of fluorescent lamps, particularly from non-household sources, further increases the net mercury benefits of fluorescent lights. To find out more about fluorescent lights, visit the N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach fluorescent light Web site at: portal.ncdenr.org/web/deao/recycling/fluorescent-lights.

How do I dispose of my household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste items such as cleansers, pesticides, furniture strippers, paints and paint thinners, etc., that you frequently keep under the sink or on a shelf in the garage can sometimes be recycled by donating them to other organizations that can use them. If you need to dispose of these items, however, they should be managed properly by taking them to a household hazardous waste collection event or facility. Contact your local solid waste management officials for information about the management of these wastes in your area. For a listing of household hazardous waste collection facilities, see this Web site: portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/hhw.

Where can I get information about the health effects associated with lead?

Lead can cause health problems for people when swallowed or inhaled. While potentially harmful to individuals of all ages, lead exposure is especially harmful to children under six years of age because it affects their developing brains and nervous systems. Ingesting or swallowing lead-contaminated materials is the primary way people get lead poisoning at home. Small children are particularly susceptible because of their constant hand-to-mouth activity. For information, contact the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Hazards Control Unit. Telephone: (919) 707-5950. Web site: www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/lead.html.

Who do I contact about mold and mildew problems?

Mold and mildew issues are handled by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services at (919) 707-5950. The following Web sites have information about mold and mildew problems, treatment and more:

1. www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/oi/mold/

2. www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/housing/pubs/fcs486.html
3. www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/index.html.

Where can I find information about bed bugs, including prevention measures?

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Structural Pest Control and Pesticide Division, Sleep Products Section has information on its Web site - www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/sleep/Bedbugs.htm. Information available includes the control of bed bugs; traveler's guide for bed bugs and used mattress (Sleep Products Program) information.

Where can I find information about open burning?

The following Web site has a lot of information about open burning, what can and cannot be burned, permits, burning structures for fire training and more:
<http://daq.state.nc.us/enf/openburn/> .

Is used oil a hazardous waste?

Used oil is not considered a hazardous waste. It has its own set of rules and regulations. You can view these regulations at the following Web site:
www.wastenotnc.org/hwhome/WEBRules/pdf/0118.pdf.

How do I dispose of used oil?

It is illegal to dispose of used oil in a municipal solid waste landfill, on the ground, in storm drains, etc. Some local government solid waste programs may accept used oil on a regular basis or through a household hazardous waste collection day. Contact local solid waste officials for information about the disposal of used oil in your county. Local jobbers (companies that provide fuel) may also take used oil. They may charge a fee for this service. Check the "Yellow Pages" of your phone book for a listing of fuel companies. The Web site for the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance has a Recycling Markets Directory with a listing of petroleum recyclers. The Web site address is: www.p2pays.org/DMRM/.