

# CHANGE OUR WAYS. CHANGE OUR WORLD.



Read the label before purchasing.



Visit your local RCC today for proper disposal of HHMs.

## What can we do to change our world?

### Read and follow the directions on the product label

#### Before purchasing

- Make sure this product will do the job you need. Is there a less hazardous or green alternative available; how much will you need for the job?

#### Before using

- The label should tell you how to use it, how much to use, if you should wear gloves or open windows, and what to do if there is an accident.

#### Store HHMs properly

- Store all containers out of the reach of children and pets.
- Store all products in their original containers, keeping the original labels intact.
- Store HHMs in a well ventilated area, away from heat, flame or sources of ignition.

#### Use your Regional Collection Center for proper disposal of unwanted HHMs

Proper disposal is critical to protecting:

- Our health, sanitation worker safety and our drinking water resources.
- The environment – land, water, fish and wildlife.

#### DNR CONTACT:

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# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL COLLECTION CENTERS



# CHANGE OUR WAYS. CHANGE OUR WORLD

Iowa DNR partnering with local agencies to provide convenient, safe options for the management and disposal of household hazardous materials.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGIONAL COLLECTION CENTERS VISIT:  
[SafeSmartSolutions.org](http://SafeSmartSolutions.org)

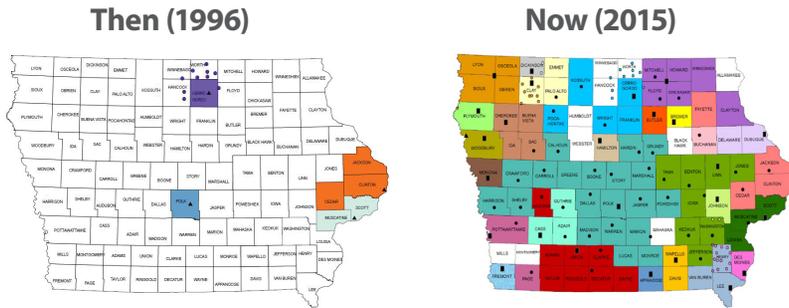
# REGIONAL COLLECTION CENTERS

## How Iowa's Household Hazardous Materials Program has grown:

The Household Hazardous Material (HHM) Program was created in 1995 through a law designed to create proper disposal options for hazardous household waste. Originally five counties applied as pilots for permanent HHW facilities and were designated Regional Collection Centers, or RCCs.

Throughout the next 20 years, the DNR has steadily worked toward providing convenient, reliable service through increasing the number of permanent facilities available to residents.

Currently, 93 counties have permanent RCC services, providing proper disposal through fixed facilities and mobile collection events. RCCs also provide education and disaster relief assistance for household hazardous waste.



## What exactly is a Household Hazardous Material or HHM?

Labels on products considered hazardous contain one or more of the following signal words: **Warning, Caution, Danger, or Poison.** These products pose health and safety concerns and environmental contamination if improperly used, stored or disposed. These signal words alert us to handle HHMs with care as they have one or more of the following characteristics: **Toxic, Corrosive, Flammable or Reactive.**

IN A TYPICAL YEAR, THE RCCs COLLECTED THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS OF HHMs:	
<b>TOXIC</b> (Ex: pesticides, poisons)	165,753 lbs
<b>CORROSIVE</b> (Ex: drain cleaners, mercury)	110,694 lbs
<b>FLAMMABLE</b> (Ex: lighter fluid, aerosols, thinners, oil-based paints)	392,467 lbs
<b>REACTIVE</b> (Ex: pool chemicals, toilet bowl cleaners, ammonia)	5,878 lbs
<b>HHMs REUSED LOCALLY THROUGH EXCHANGE/SWAP SHOP</b>	424,083 lbs
<b>HHMs MANAGED LOCALLY</b>	4,180,626 lbs
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF HHMs MANAGED</b>	7,057,212 lbs

Source: FY 2014 Legislative Report: waste was collected from nearly 39,950 households and 1,565 businesses.

## What do RCCs provide to your community?

- Convenient local disposal for hazardous materials that are found in nearly every home, under every sink, in closets, basements and garages.
- Education awareness is provided for schools, businesses and residents on the proper purchasing, use, storage and disposal of HHMs.
- Swap or Exchange rooms where residents can find usable products such as household cleaners, paints or automotive products free of charge.



Educating the public about household hazardous materials through videos and games.



In the Swap Shop patrons can pick up and drop off a variety of household materials free of charge.

## The Iowa DNR works closely with your local RCC in variety of ways, offering:

- Financial support for operational expenses, improvements or equipment
- Partner with RCCs to provide statewide advertising and education awareness campaigns



Sorting HHMs for proper disposal.



Demonstration of Paint Can Crusher efficiency at an RCC open house.