

BACKGROUND: Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) / Orange Drop Program

How we started:

Orange Drop is the name of the consumer-facing program that collects Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW). The program provides safe end-of-life support for five materials:



Since launching in 2008, the program has grown to divert tens of millions of kilograms of hazardous or special waste from our landfills and waterways each year. Most Ontarians have access to many Municipal Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) depots, which makes disposing hazardous or special waste easier than ever before. Additional Orange Drop locations are also situated at retail stores, auto body shops and provincial parks. Municipalities also host over 300 collection events across the province each year.

The MHSW Program is managed by Stewardship Ontario, a not-for-profit industry-funded organization. Stewardship Ontario receives no funding from government or taxpayers. Instead, the program is uniquely designed by having the stewards pay for the MHSW materials they sell to consumers.

Quick Facts:

- Materials are accepted at local Municipal Hazardous Household Waste Depots and collection events, retail stores, and other community sites. In 2017, these included:
 - 30 return-to-retail locations (batteries)
 - 88 municipal household hazardous waste depots for all five materials
 - 985 automotive DIY drop-off sites (antifreeze, oil containers, oil filters)
 - 12,000+ automotive service centre locations (antifreeze, oil containers, oil filters) for commercial users
 - 305 annual collection events
 - 102 provincial parks where non-refillable propane cylinders are collected from campers
 - 5,340 battery collection sites

- In 2017, the Orange Drop Program collected over 11,400 tonnes of hazardous or special waste materials – that’s the weight of 20,000 polar bears!
- Stewardship Ontario ensures leftover materials and their containers deposited at a collection centre or retail drop zone are recycled or reprocessed into new materials — such as antifreeze and plastics, or good-as-new raw materials for manufacturing.
- For materials that can’t be recycled, disposal is handled in the most environmentally responsible way.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RECYCLING?



How we operate:

As an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, the costs for the administration, collection, transportation, processing and responsible handling (recycling and safe disposal) of MHSW materials collected through Orange Drop is 100% funded by the stewards that produce the materials and products that are part of the program. In 2016, over \$21.2 million was invested to manage the safe collection and processing of hazardous or special waste.

A Transparent and Open Program:

The Orange Drop Program has a high degree of accountability. Stewardship Ontario reports quarterly on performance targets to the [Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority \(RPRA\)](#) and produces an annual report which is available on the [website](#). Materials in the program must meet a number of targets including collection, recycling, and consumer accessibility targets.

More Information:

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