

## INTRODUCTION

The Salt Lake County Health Department's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides county residents with locations and opportunities to safely dispose of unwanted residential hazardous waste—items that, if improperly disposed, could contaminate our waterways, groundwater, and soil. There is no cost to residents to use the program.

The health department began its HHW program in 1991 by holding collection events to limit the amount of dangerous materials contaminating our waterways and groundwater. In 1996, the department built a permanent HHW facility at the Salt Lake Valley Landfill. Despite the inconvenient location of the current facility, through creative marketing, satellite locations, and well-executed off-site collection events, Health Department staff have still managed to increase the program's volume of waste over 500% since 1996. In 2010, public demand for electronic waste recycling spurred development of electronic waste collection. Currently, a partnership with Samsung funds this entire program—at no cost to Salt Lake County or its residents.

Though popular among county residents, the current facility's remote location is inconvenient for most residents and is a significant barrier to routine use. The current facility is also outdoors, which is not ideal for the storage of hazardous chemicals because of the exposure to precipitation and temperature extremes, and is undersized for the program's current needs and expected growth.

Household hazardous waste is any waste in residents' homes that poses a threat to public health or our environment. It is things that are poisonous, flammable, corrosive, or toxic, as well as products (such as electronics) that contain certain materials like metals. This includes:

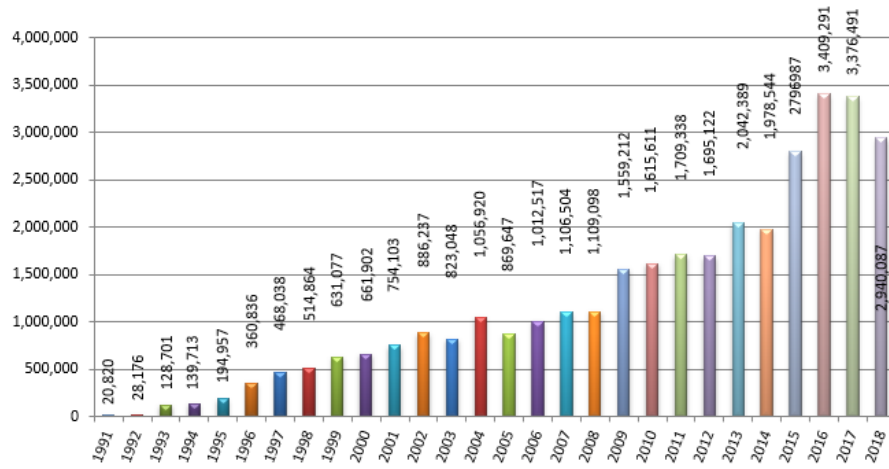
- Fuels
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Yard care chemicals
- Many cleaning supplies
- Batteries
- Cooking oil
- Automotive fluids and products
- Aerosols
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Devices that contain mercury
- Televisions/monitors
- Computers and peripherals
- Cell phones

## FUTURE GROWTH

Program growth in the last 20+ years (due to both increased population and increased program awareness) has caused the program to expand beyond its physical operating areas. This has required some waste to remain exposed to the elements and is not ideal for chemical handling or employee safety. When the program pursues recycling paint, which encompasses 55% of the current waste stream, we will need even more space.

There is also still a significant amount of HHW in Salt Lake County that is not being disposed responsibly, but continued growth of the program is not feasible with the current facilities.

## POUNDS COLLECTED PER YEAR (1991-2018)



	<b>1996</b>	<b>2018</b>
Volume collected	500,000 lbs.	2,900,000 lbs.
Residents	850,000	1,100,000
Satellite facilities	No	Yes
Collection events	No	18
E-waste collection	No	Yes
Staff	4	7
Size of facility	4,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	5,500 ft <sup>2</sup>