

9. DROP-OFF CENTRES FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Officer responsible City Water and Waste Manager	Author Dave Harris, Refuse Operations Manager, DDI 371-1272
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The purpose of this report is to present details of publicity regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Centres.

BACKGROUND

The Council has established drop-off points for household hazardous wastes (HHW) at the Recycling Centres at the three Council refuse stations. Up until now there has been only limited publicity about the facilities while the operational procedures were finalised. Among the issues that have been identified and improved are:

- Protection of dropped-off HHW from the weather.
- Controls put in to restrict public access to hazardous materials.
- Improved signage around hazardous areas.
- Procedures set up to ensure wastes are quickly put into secure storage or moved off-site.
- Initial training on safe handling and storage of hazardous wastes completed and personal protective equipment supplied to all staff handling HHW.
- Procedures established for dealing with problem wastes.
- Evacuation and emergency procedures set up for HHW area.

Staff are now confident they will be able to handle the increased volumes of HHW likely to be dropped off as a result of advertising the service.

PROMOTION OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES DROP-OFF POINTS

It is proposed that advertising for the HHW drop-off service will be focused firstly on reducing the amount of HHW, and then on providing details of how to deal with any residual waste.

A booklet, "Keep Your Rubbish Toxic Free – A guide to household hazardous wastes and safe substitutes", has been produced by Environment Canterbury in conjunction with Canterbury district and city councils. This booklet provides general information about the types of household products that can be hazardous and some information on safe storage and handling. It also offers some safe alternatives to some of the common hazardous products. This booklet is available at all Refuse Stations and Service Centres. Copies will be tabled at the Committee meeting.

Also, the Council has produced a draft brochure which details the types of HHW accepted at the drop-off points, safety precautions for handling HHW, types of waste not accepted and alternative disposal options for these wastes, and information on where to obtain the "Keep Your Rubbish Toxic Free" booklet. These brochures will be available at all Refuse Stations and Service Centres. Discussions are also under way with garden shops, hardware shops, service stations and other businesses dealing in hazardous wastes to try to get copies of the brochure and booklet displayed on their premises. (A copy of the brochure is attached.)

In addition to the above, a series of articles and advertisements regarding HHW and the drop-off points is being planned for publication in the City Scene once the brochure is finalised.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.