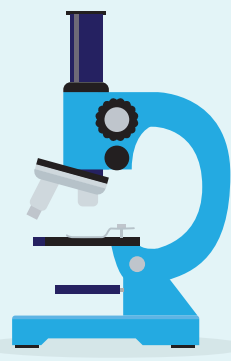


HazWaste

Hazardous Waste Site Health Assessment Team

We look into whether hazardous waste sites cause health risks. A hazardous waste site can be any place where chemicals have gotten into the air, water and soil. Former landfills and industrial plants, even areas where crops have been grown, can be hazardous waste sites. Other agencies like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provide us with site samples, data or test results for us to study. We then determine the:

- Types of chemicals
- Amount of chemicals
- Chemical exposures
- Potential health risks



HazWaste shares site findings and recommendations with the public, throughout the Florida Department of Health and other government agencies.



Types of chemicals

Chemicals have two sources: people and nature.

Factories, power plants, cars and cigarettes are examples of sources from people.

Wild fires and algae are examples of natural sources.



Amount of chemicals

Some chemicals in large amounts can make you sick, while others can in very small amounts. Any chemical can cause a health problem if your exposure amount reaches a toxic level. We use chemicals every day at home and at work, and we consume chemicals when we eat.



Chemical exposures

Chemicals are in our air, water and soil.

Chemicals in soil can contaminate food, drinking water, and water for bathing, cleaning, plants and crops.

YOU CAN BE EXPOSED WHEN YOU:

breathe in

ingest

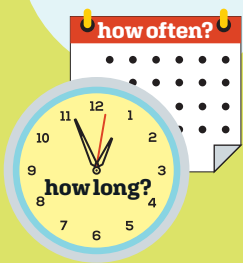
absorb a chemical through your skin

Potential health risks

HazWaste determines health risks by studying:

The **type** of chemical and **how much** there is at a site.

How long and **how often** individuals were exposed.



The healthier you are, the better you can protect yourself from chemicals and disease: eat well, exercise, get plenty of sleep and see your health care provider for screenings.

Wash your hands often

Especially before eating, and after cleaning and yard work—teach your children this healthy habit.

Keep it clean at home

Wipe your shoes outside or on a doormat.

Wash fruits and vegetables before cooking and eating.

Wear gloves when cleaning with chemicals.

Routinely wash children's toys.

Routinely bathe pets.

Stay safe doing yard work

Wear gloves, eye protection and keep your skin covered.

Don't eat, drink or smoke while doing yard work.

Guard your health!

