

Household Chemicals Are Hazardous Materials by Karen Bryan

Paint, motor oil, cleaning solutions, and other commonly used household liquids can be toxic to our environment if not handled with care. Disposing of excess cleaners and other items from the garage is perplexing and frankly, a waste of money. The MCBH Reuse Room at building 6409 is here to help. They can accept paint, stains, motor oil, detergents, stains, propane tanks, gardening supplies, etc. from MCBH residents. Containers must be clean and leak-free. Anyone can stop by and pick up donated household chemicals **FREE** of charge. A few items cannot be accepted—hygiene products, ammunition, and household or auto batteries. The Reuse Room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during normal circumstances.

If you don't live on Base, there are other options for dropping off household hazardous materials. According to the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, small amounts of household cleaners can be safely flushed down the drain with plenty of water. Paint and used oil can be safely disposed of with trash after it has been dried out or absorbed with materials such as rags, newspaper or sawdust. Materials that present serious health and safety hazards including pesticides, herbicides, gasoline, lighter fluid, mercury, and solvents such as rust remover require special handling. Every other month, hazardous materials can be dropped off, but you need an appointment to do so. Call 768-3201 no later than one week prior to the event to schedule an appointment. Upcoming dates for 2020: July 11, September 5, and November 7. Check the following website for more details:
https://www.opala.org/solid_waste/Household_Hazardous_Waste.html.

Mālama i ka 'āina—care for and live in harmony with the land. Celebrate Earth Day every day.

Activity: Many Base residents don't know about the Reuse Room. Use materials you have at home to create an advertisement for the Reuse Room. Random drawings for prizes will be held when social distancing measures have been lifted.