



# sanitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation)

## **Queens Spring SAFE Disposal Event on Saturday, April 13, 2019**

### **Event Gives Residents Easy Way to Dispose of Potentially Harmful Household Items**

The NYC Department of Sanitation is reminding residents that the Queens Spring SAFE Disposal (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables, and Electronics) event will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The drop-off event, in the Astoria Park Parking Lot, provides residents with an easy way to safely dispose of potentially harmful household products and is held rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Household products such as pesticides, strong cleaners, mercury-containing devices, paints, automotive fluids, and medications may be brought to the drop-off events. Residents can also bring electronics, which may no longer be collected with trash and other recycling, due to a New York state law. To identify harmful products, look for items marked DANGER, WARNING, POISON, or CAUTION. Only city residential waste will be accepted.

“Our SAFE Disposal events give city residents a quick, and easy way to dispose of potentially harmful products,” said Acting Commissioner Steven Costas. “Earlier this year, someone tossed an oxygen tank in the trash, and it ended up in the back of the truck. The tank exploded in the back of the truck and injured two of our Workers, luckily not too seriously. However, it could have been much worse. We hold these events for the residents, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of them.”

In 2019, DSNY will hold 10 SAFE Disposal events, two per borough. All events are rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Department held an event in Brooklyn earlier this month. Upcoming events include:

- Queens - Saturday, April 13, 2019  
Astoria Park, Parking Lot - Hoyt Ave & 19th St  
Cars enter from Ditmars Blvd onto 21st Street
- Staten Island - Saturday, April 27, 2019  
Midland Beach Parking Lot - Father Capodanno Blvd & Hunter Ave  
Cars approach from Slater Blvd
- Bronx - Saturday, May 4, 2019

Orchard Beach Parking Lot  
Follow Park Drive to the end

- Manhattan - Sunday, June 2, 2019  
Columbia University/Teachers College – W. 120 St between B'way & Amsterdam Ave  
Cars approach from Seminary Row down Amsterdam Ave

Fall 2019 SAFE Disposal Events will be announced in the late summer.

### **Examples of Accepted Items**

- Automotive products such as motor oil, transmission fluid, and auto batteries
- Personal care items like unwanted medicines or cosmetics
- Thermometers
- Syringes (clearly labeled and packaged in a “sharps” container or other leak proof, puncture-resistant container)
- Household products such as pesticides, paint, hazardous cleaners, compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Electronics, such as computers, televisions, and printers.

Materials collected are either recycled, blended for fuel, or sent to licensed hazardous waste treatment facilities for safe disposal. Electronics are responsibly recycled or refurbished for reuse through [ecycleNYC](#). Unwanted medications are managed by environmental police and incinerated to prevent unintentional poisonings or entry into the water supply.

DSNY relies on several partners and contractors to make these events a success, including the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Columbia University, Teachers College, Covanta Energy, Electronic Recyclers International, and Veolia ES Technical Solutions.

For those unable to participate in these events, visit [www.nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://www.nyc.gov/safedisposal) or contact 311 for other year round options to handle auto products, batteries, cell phones, electronics, fluorescent lamps, latex paint, mercury devices and syringes.

### **About the New York City Department of Sanitation**

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 695 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.