

## Managing Household Hazardous Waste

Many common household products can be hazardous to your family's health and the environment. Play it safe. See below for things you can do.

### 1. Don't buy it!

The best method of managing Household Hazardous Waste is to prevent its generation in the first place. This involves selecting the least toxic item "to do the job" and buying only the minimum amounts necessary. Buying in large quantities is not a bargain if half of it has to be discarded.

### 2. Avoid household products marked "Danger"

Look for the word "danger" on cleaners, polishes, paint strippers and pesticides. "Danger" means the product could poison you, cause serious damage to your skin or eyes, or easily cause a fire. There are four different types of hazards. Choose products marked "caution" or "warning", or better yet, products that don't need warnings. Choose water-based products, such as latex paint, white glue and water-based paint stripper.

### 3. Reduce your need for yard and garden pesticides

Pesticides are poisons. Besides killing bugs and weeds, they may also poison children, irritate eyes or skin, cause cancer or kill birds and fish. Build healthy soil by adding compost or aged manure and using slow-release organic fertilizers. Buy plants that will grow well in the Indiana climate and in your yard. Try non-chemical products to control pests, such as Teflon tape for root weevils or soap and water solution for aphids. The less-toxic pest control alternative is preferred.

### 4. Recycle your used motor oil

Oil dumped on the ground or in storm drains is not treated and may end up in our streams and lakes, threatening fish, birds, lakes and

drinking water supplies. Take used oil to a recycling center, household hazardous waste program, or automotive service station that accepts used motor oil from the public. Contact your local solid waste management district to locate the recycling locations nearest to you.

### 5. Share it!

If the material is still usable (i.e. has not been damaged/shelf life expired, has not been banned, etc.) check with friends and neighbors to see if they might be able to use it. Or check with community groups such as Little League, Habitat for Humanity, etc. to see if they can use the product. Items that should not be shared are banned or restricted pesticides, prescription medicines, syringes, and products that are not in original containers or whose labels are not readable.

### 6. Dispose of leftover hazardous products properly

When you dispose of hazardous household products in the storm drain or sink, the chemicals can end up in local water bodies or groundwater. If you throw them in the garbage the chemicals can endanger collection and disposal workers. Contact your local solid waste program to learn how to properly dispose of hazardous products.

#### Local Solid Waste Program:

East Central Indiana SWMD  
2031 Mounds Road  
Anderson, IN 46016

Phone: (765) 640-2535 or  
1-800-863-2793

Fax: (765) 640-2540

E-mail: [eciswd@netdirect.net](mailto:eciswd@netdirect.net)

Web: [www.eciswd.org](http://www.eciswd.org)

<http://www.in.gov/idem/oppta/hhw/disposal.html>  
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## Guide to Household Hazardous Waste: Storage, Handling, Application, and Disposal

### Madison County

Educational Brochure related to the Stormwater Quality Management Plan

Prepared by:



(using information from IDEM webpages)

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## What makes a household product hazardous?

### Read the label!

Look for the words Danger, Warning or Caution on the product label. Danger is the most hazardous product. Warning or Caution are less hazardous products. Products that don't have any of these words on the label are least hazardous. A hazardous product has at least one of the following properties: toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive.

### Toxic

Toxic materials are either poisonous or cause long-term illness (such as cancer). Pesticides, paint thinners, many auto products and some cleaners are toxic. Look for words on the product label like: "Harmful or fatal if swallowed." "Use only in a well-ventilated area" (this means product fumes are toxic).

### Flammable

Flammable materials burn easily. Paint, thinners and other solvents, and auto products are the most flammable home products. Look for words on the product label like: "Do not use near heat or flame." "Combustible." "Do not smoke while using this product."

### Corrosive

Eats through materials (acid, for example). Oven cleaners, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners and auto batteries are common corrosive products. Look for words on the product label like: "Causes severe burns on contact." "Can burn eyes, skin, throat."

### Reactive

These products can explode (when exposed to heat, air, water or shock). There are few consumer products still on the market that are explosive (except for fireworks). Some older explosive products may still be stored in homes.

## Safe Storage and Use of Hazardous Household Products

Safe storage of hazardous household products is important to prevent accidental poisonings and spills. Cleaning products and other hazardous household products are among the most dangerous poisons. Hazardous household products are stored for months or even years before they are used up or transported to a collection site. It is important to follow the use and storage guidelines below. Improper storage can be a safety hazard or turn usable products into waste.

- ❖ Follow all directions on the container. If the directions appear out of date, call the manufacturer.
- ❖ Store all products out of reach of children and pets.
- ❖ Lock poisons and medicines out of reach and sight of small children.
- ❖ Return hazardous household products to safe storage immediately after use.
- ❖ Always keep products in their original containers. If the product is removed from its original container, label it with the name of the product and the date you first stored the product in that container. Also include the name and phone number of the manufacturer and directions for safe use, storage and disposal. Never use food or beverage containers as replacement containers. Ensure the container is child-resistant.
- ❖ Never mix different household chemicals. Doing so could be dangerous. For example, mixing chlorine bleach with ammonia or vinegar can create toxic fumes.
- ❖ Never smoke or eat while handling hazardous materials.

- ❖ Never store products with hazardous ingredients in food or beverage containers. Also, never store these products in the same area as food.
- ❖ Keep containers dry to avoid rusting.
- ❖ Keep products from freezing. Never store in an unheated garage during the winter. An exception to this is products labeled "Flammable" or "Combustible." They may be stored in an unheated garage during the winter.
- ❖ Never store gasoline or other fuels indoors.
- ❖ If the product container is deteriorating, place the entire container in a plastic bucket. Surround it with a nonflammable absorbent, such as kitty litter, vermiculite or floor dry, to absorb spills. Label the outside of the container as indicated above.
- ❖ Use according to manufacturer's instructions. For instance, don't over apply pesticides and herbicides.

### Madison County Recycling Center 2031 Mounds Road, Anderson (765) 641-7978

#### Accepts:

- ❖ Aluminum and tin cans
- ❖ Paper – newspaper, magazines, books, office, cardboard
- ❖ Glass – all colors
- ❖ Plastic - #1 through #7

#### Please Note:

- ❖ Wash or rinse all food and beverage containers
- ❖ Remove lids and rings from glass and plastic containers
- ❖ Electronics, Appliances, & Tires accepted only during rotating hours

#### Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday: 8 AM – 4 PM

#### Rotating Hours:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: 10 AM – 6 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday: 8 AM – 12 PM