

What are Household Hazardous Wastes?

Many products found in your home are potentially hazardous substances. Because of their chemical nature, they can poison, corrode, ignite easily when handled improperly, or give off fumes that may make you ill.

When no longer needed, these substances are considered household hazardous waste.

What are examples of Potential Household Hazardous Wastes?

- oil-based paints
- paint thinners and strippers
- household polishes and cleaners
- wood and metal cleaners
- fingernail polish remover
- oven cleaners
- drain cleaners
- lighter fluid
- insecticides and herbicides
- used oil and oil filters
- antifreeze

What can I do about Household Hazardous Wastes?

- **Use safe substitutes** instead of hazardous household products
- **Reduce** by purchasing only the amount that you need.
- **Reuse** the products by donating unused portions to friends or community organizations.
- **Recycle** leftover household hazardous products that are recyclable and **dispose** of the others safely by participating in local household hazardous waste collection program.

Contact your local solid waste management office to learn about household hazardous waste collection programs in your area.

Why manage Household Hazardous Wastes?

Improper handling or disposal of products containing hazardous ingredients can result in serious accidents to people and animals. For example:

- Refuse workers and landfill workers can be injured by chemical splashes or poisonous fumes caused by mixed or concentrated household hazardous wastes.
- The environment can be seriously damaged when groundwater used for drinking or irrigation is contaminated with household hazardous products that have been poured onto or have seeped into the ground.
- Bacteria needed to break down septic tank wastes can be destroyed by untreated household hazardous wastes.

Why are they Hazardous?

Household hazardous wastes are considered hazardous because they usually fit into one of more of the following categories: **toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive.**

Before buying a product, read the label. Signal words can serve as a guide to the purchases you make.

With **HOUSEHOLD** products —

Poison means highly toxic,

Danger means extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic, and

Warning/Caution means less toxic.

With **PESTICIDES** —

Danger means highly toxic,

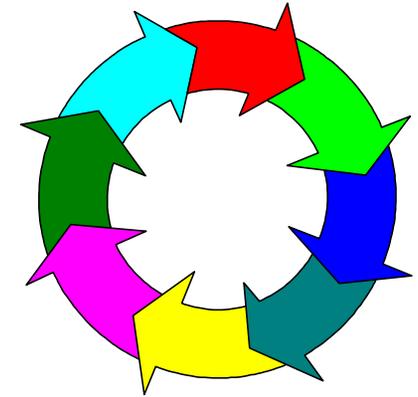
Warning means moderately toxic, and

Caution means slightly toxic.



For further information contact:

Office of Environment and Energy
Environment, Energy, & Employee Safety Division
AEE-200
202-267-3553
<http://www.aee.faa.gov/aee-200>



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