

A Quick Guide to: **Household Hazardous Products**

How to safely manage hazardous products in your home



Many of the products that we use daily to clean our homes, make ourselves look good, drive our vehicles, and keep our homes and yards beautiful can actually be dangerous to our health and the environment if they are not used properly. Improper usage or disposal can harm wildlife and contaminate our water resources. Proper disposal keeps hazardous products out of landfills, preventing groundwater contamination.

The following suggestions will help you use and dispose of the products safely.

Identifying Hazardous Products

Hazardous products include a variety of materials that contain chemicals that can be dangerous to you or the environment.

Some household examples include oven cleaners, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, furniture polish, silver cleaner, paint remover (thinners and degreasers) and oil based paint, aerosol cans, pesticides and herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, car and boat batteries.

The following words tell you how hazardous a product is:

Caution: slightly toxic.

Warning: moderately toxic.

Danger and Poison: highly toxic, carcinogenic, corrosive, or extremely flammable.

Other important words on the label can tell you the specific hazards they might pose:

Toxic: capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption.

Flammable/Combustible: can be easily set on fire.

Corrosive: chemical action can burn and damage unprotected skin or other materials.

Explosive: can detonate or explode.

Read the Label Before:

1. Purchasing a hazardous product.
2. Storing a hazardous product.
3. Using a hazardous product.
4. Disposing of a hazardous product.

Safe Storage

Hazardous products should always be:

- In their original containers with visible and intact labels.
- Off the floor in a well ventilated area.
- Away from children (locked), pets, food, feed, seed, and water.

- Away from floor drains and sources of heat.
- Properly disposed of if it is not regularly used or is unusable.

Safe Handling

1. Always use the recommended safety equipment including chemically resistant gloves, goggles, protective clothing, and masks. See label for more information.
2. Keep pet litter or newspaper close at hand in case of a spill. They will readily absorb liquids. Dry spills and absorbed liquids should be swept up and properly disposed.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal:

- If possible, use the product up according to manufacturer directions.
- Find someone who can use it (i.e. a neighbor or friend).
- If it is unusable, take it to a hazardous waste facility.
- Pesticides and Mercury can be taken to a *Clean Sweep* location contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture for a location near you at (517) 335-6529.
- Many automotive parts and products can be recycled at auto parts stores or repair shops. Ask around until you find a store that will accept them.



Hazardous Waste Resources in Oakland County:

Call your local municipality and/or one of the following to determine the correct method of disposal for your household hazardous wastes.

- **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)**
Phone: (517) 241-7957
Web site: www.michigan.gov/deg
- **Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA)** for Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy communities.
Phone: (248) 288-5150
Web site: www.socrra.org
- **Resource Recovery Authority for Southwest Oakland County (RRASOC)** for Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, Lyon Township and South Lyon communities
Phone: (248) 208-2270
Web site: www.rrasoc.org



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For more information on making your home a safer place through a Home*A*Syst, contact the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program at (248) 858-5198.

Developed by Healthy People, Healthy Oakland's Environment Task Force. For more information, please call (248) 858-7969.



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