



TETRA TECH, INC.

A to Z... Household Hazardous Waste Products

aerosols
ammunition
antifreeze
asbestos
asphalt and roofing tar
auto fluids
batteries
bleach
brake fluid
caulk
DDT and chloride
drain cleaner
explosives
flammables
furniture/floor polish
gasoline
glues
herbicide (weed killer)
kerosene
lye
moth balls
motor oil
mouse/rat poison
nail polish/remover
old medicine
oven cleaner
paint thinner and stripper
pesticide (bug killer)
photographic chemicals
propane
shoe polish
smoke detectors (radioactive)
swimming pool chemicals
toilet bowl cleaner
toner cartridges
transmission fluid
varnish
wood preservatives

Hazardous Waste in Your Home?

Surprisingly, many of the products we use in our home everyday are hazardous if they are used, stored, or disposed of improperly. These products can make their way into our water supplies - such as our lakes and streams - where they can be harmful to the plants and animals, or even contaminate drinking water supplies or make recreational activities, such as swimming or fishing, unsafe.

Always check the label to see if a product is hazardous. A product may be hazardous if the label has a picture of a skull and cross bones or, if it contains the words WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER or POISON.

How to Reduce the Impact of Household Hazardous Waste

There are many actions you can take to reduce the impact of household hazardous waste. The list below highlights a few simple steps you can follow to protect your streams and lakes.

TIP: Only buy what you need

Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only what you will use.

TIP: Label it!

Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable so that the product can be identified.

TIP: Store products properly

Store hazardous materials in a cool, dry place inaccessible to children and pets. Some chemicals may become volatile in warm or hot climates, or dry out to the point where they are unusable. You'll save money, reduce waste and prevent potential accidental spills or exposure.

TIP: Follow directions

Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and follow all safe-handling requirements.

TIP: Give away extras

Offer surplus portions of products that are useable and safely packaged to others. For instance, offer pesticides to nurseries and paint to theater groups.

Hazardous Chemical Properties

A product is considered hazardous if it is has one or more of the following properties:

- Toxic — poisonous or capable of causing acute illness;
- Flammable — ignitable and burns easily;
- Corrosive — eats through other materials; or
- Reactive — can possibly explode or react with other chemicals.

TIP: Dispose products properly.

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste, because if it is simply landfilled, it can end up vaporizing or leaking into our ground water. These wastes should be recycled or taken to a household hazardous waste drop-off site or event for proper disposal. Contact your local disposal center for additional information on proper disposal and hazardous waste drop-off locations and dates.

TIP: Use less toxic alternatives.

Reduce the amount of hazardous wastes you purchase by using less toxic alternatives listed below.

For more information on household hazardous waste and disposal centers in your area, please check out:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3312_4118_4239-14774--,00.html

For more information about MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan, check out:

<http://www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt>