

Clean Waters

Starting in Your Home and Yard

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 label 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: Dispose of 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.

- ◇ *Never dispose of hazardous material down the stormwater or sanitary sewer system.*
- ◇ *Dispose of the waste through Flathead County Landfill's **Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection** program. For more information call 406-758-5911.*
- ◇ *Recycle when possible. For more recycling information in the Flathead go to: www.wastenotproject.org*

Hazardous Chemical Properties

A product is considered hazardous if it 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.



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