

# Household Hazardous Waste



## Identifying Hazards

Common household products that contain hazardous materials pose a safety problem when used or disposed of incorrectly. It's important to follow a product's instructions for safe use.



Products classified as "hazardous" have become so commonplace in most homes that we often don't realize they can be dangerous to use and dispose of. Key words like DANGER, CAUTION, WARNING, FLAMMABLE, or POISON on the product's label indicate that it is potentially hazardous and requires special attention.

Improper handling of hazardous products may cause extreme danger to you, your family, your property, public workers, wildlife and the environment.

## Buying

- Separate incompatible products; keep liquids away from fertilizers.
- Limit the amount of chemicals stored and eliminate unused or unneeded supplies.
- Keep all household chemical products out of sight and reach of children.



- Read directions and all health warnings. If you have pets, make sure that the product is safe to use around animals.
- Purchase child-resistant substances and packaging and buy only what you need.
- Try to find the least hazardous products.

## Storing

Store products tightly in original containers so you can easily identify the contents and refer back to the labeled directions for proper usage if needed.

- Never mix chemicals as this may produce dangerous reactions.
- Regularly check containers for wear and tear and possible leakage.
- Store materials in a cool, dark place.



## Using

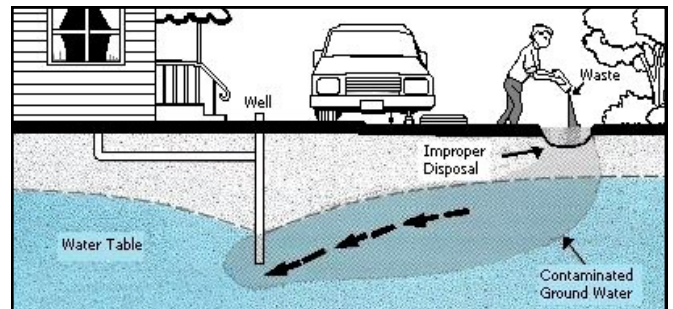
- Always read and follow the directions. Some products should not be used in confined spaces, others should not be used without gloves or eye protection to avoid physical contact.
- Use only the amount indicated and avoid splashing.
- Take breaks frequently for fresh air and never smoke while using any household chemical.



- Many chemical accidents are the result of trying to improve the way a product works by adding one substance to another. Avoid mixing common household chemical products as some combinations, such as ammonia and bleach, can create toxic gases.
- You can substitute non-hazardous materials for many cleaning and stain removal tasks. These products include baking soda, cornstarch, lemon juice, soapy water, steel wool and vinegar.

## Disposing

- Improper disposal of hazardous products in our backyards, down the drain or in landfills is an issue of growing concern. Household hazardous products that are improperly used, stored or disposed of can enter groundwater and surface water supplies and be harmful to your health.
- There are several ways you can dispose of hazardous household products. Options include using the entire supply, recycling unused portions, taking unused supplies to a household collection event or donating unused supplies to a local group or organization that may have a need for them.
- For more information on Household Hazardous Waste disposal, contact the Western Placer Waste Management Authority Permanent HHW Facility or visit their website at [ww.wpwma.com](http://ww.wpwma.com).



### Did You Know?

The most common household chemical emergency involves children eating medicines.