

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Smart Tips:

- Follow instructions on how to handle HHW products and disposal.
- Don't mix leftover HHW products, because they may act as a reacting agent, causing a chemical reaction resulting in an explosion or make HHW items become non-recyclable.
- Watch for hidden dangers: in your home HHW items may not present an immediate hazard, but improper waste disposal can make them a threat to human health and the environment.
- Recycle any HHW items: to save money and further reduce the need to generate more hazardous substances!
- Store all HHW products properly: keep HHW products out of reach of children and animals.

Call JCDH Stormwater Hotline number or visit the website to report HHW being dumped into the storm drains.

Stormwater Hotline
205.930.1999

Resources for Recycling

EPA –Resource Conservation
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/recycling/donate.htm>

EPA-Consumer's Handbook
for Reducing Solid Waste
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/catbook/index.htm>

Earth 911
<http://earth911.com/>

Alabama Environmental Council
<http://www.aeonline.org/>

Technical Knock Out
<http://www.technicalko.net/>

References

Wastes

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/index.htm>

Wastes-Hazardous Waste

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/hazard/index.htm>

Wastes-Hazardous Waste-Waste Types

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/hazard/wastetypes/index.htm>



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Jefferson County Department of Health
Watershed Protection Program

in Cooperation with the

Stormwater Management Authority

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal





What are Considered Household Hazardous Wastes?

The definition of a Household Hazardous Waste is a product that contains chemicals that are corrosive, explosive, reactive, flammable, or toxic. These products can be found in most cabinets throughout your home or storage areas. They include common products such as paint thinner, spot remover, oven cleaner, furniture polish, drain opener, pool chemicals, or hair spray.

The name of a product can indicate whether or not it falls in this category. Names such as pesticide, acid, fungicide, caustic, herbicide, flammable, explosive, or solvent are direct indicators. It is a good practice, to read all product labels carefully before throwing them away.

Improper disposal practices can involve Household Hazardous Waste being discharged into the septic tank, storm drain, on the ground, or placing items on vacant property.

Read Your Products' Labels

Corrosive- a chemical or its vapors that can burn or destroy living tissues at the site of contact, and deteriorate or wear away the surface of a material.

Explosive- violently bursts when exposed to pressure or heat or other substances.

Reactive- can cause explosions, toxic fumes, gases, or vapors when heated, compressed, or mixed with water.

Flammable- can be ignited by a flame, spark, ignition source or hot surface under almost all temperature conditions.

Toxic- can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed, or inhaled.



Household Hazardous Waste Affects The Environment

As a precautionary method residents can take steps to reduce the spread of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from entering into their home or landfill.

The direct results of HHW can be observed in your local waterways and streams, because most storm drains flow into the Cahaba River, Shades Creek, Village Creek, Valley Creek, Warrior River, and the Locust Fork water bodies with NO treatment.

Some common sources of contaminants in storm water runoff include: spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment, construction debris, and landscaping runoff. Sources may also include pesticides or weed killers and materials such as motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

