



## COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

### ANTIFREEZE

**Δ HAZARD:** Most antifreeze contains ethylene glycol and nitrates, which are poisonous and flammable. The sweet smell of antifreeze attracts pets, especially cats and dogs. If you drain your old antifreeze on the ground, cats, dogs, and wild animals may drink it and get sick or die.

*Lotox®*, a new antifreeze containing propylene glycol, which is less likely to harm your pet, is now on the market. However, neither type of antifreeze is friendly to the environment. As antifreeze moves through your engine, it picks up heavy metals. If these heavy metals contaminate water sources, they are toxic to fish and other wildlife.



**DISPOSAL:** Don't pour antifreeze down any drain (or on the ground); it can be recycled. Bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

### GASOLINE/SMALL ENGINE FUEL

**Δ HAZARD:** After a few months, the gas in your lawnmower, boat, or other small engines can become unusable, requiring disposal. Water may condense in the fuel line, or gas may "break down" and clog the fuel system.



**DISPOSAL:** If you have gasoline or fuel that is bad, don't burn it or dump it into any drain (or on the ground); it can be recycled. Bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

## HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS AND CLEANERS

### All-Purpose Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Some cleaners contain ammonia or chlorine bleach. Heavy-duty cleaners may be corrosive and can damage skin and eyes. Many bathroom cleaners contain disinfectants.



### Disinfectants

**Δ HAZARD:** Disinfectants could pose a health hazard. Many contain chemicals that are dangerous to inhale. Some of the strongest disinfectants are flammable and severely damaging to the eyes. However, germs may also pose a health hazard, especially on kitchen surfaces. Read the label and follow all directions and safety precautions. **Never mix chemicals.**

### Drain Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Chemical drain cleaners are extremely dangerous products that can cause chemical burns to the skin and permanent eye damage.

### Furniture Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Most furniture polishes contain petroleum distillates, which are flammable and can cause serious injury if accidentally swallowed. Avoid polishes with the word DANGER on the label.

### Metal Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Some of these products contain petroleum distillates, ammonia, acid, or other hazardous ingredients. Look for the word DANGER on the product label.

### Oven Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Most commercial oven cleaners contain lye and are corrosive to the skin and eyes.

### Toilet Bowl Cleaners

**Δ HAZARD:** Many are acidic and can burn skin and eyes. Avoid products that say DANGER on the label.



**DISPOSAL:** Use up cleaners according to label directions or give them to others to use. Take unused cleaners to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

## LATEX PAINTS AND PRODUCTS

Water-based (latex or acrylic) paints and stains have greatly improved in recent years, making them almost as durable as oil-based products. They are less hazardous because water replaces most of the oil-based components. They dry much faster and can be cleaned up with soap and water.



**DISPOSAL:** If only a small amount is left (less than one inch), let it dry outdoors, away from children and pets. Then recycle the can with a metal recycler. If there is a larger amount, bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

No liquids in the trash.

*Old paint (pre-1974) may contain lead. Removing it is hazardous. Call the National Lead Information Center 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).*

## OIL-BASED PAINTS AND SOLVENTS

**Δ HAZARD:** Oil-based paints and solvents (such as acetone, denatured alcohol, mineral spirits, paint thinners, methylene chloride strippers, and methyl ethyl ketone) are some of the most hazardous products that are found in many homes. Exposure can lead to a range of short-term and long-term health problems such as lung and throat irritation, liver and kidney damage, and cancer. If handled improperly, oil-based products can contribute to smog, and improper disposal leads to air, land, and water pollution.



*If you use oil-based paint and stain products, reduce exposure through adequate ventilation. This means opening two windows or a window and a door for cross-ventilation. Use a fan to keep the air moving. Do not use these products around an ignition source such as a water heater, portable heater, furnace, fireplace, or any other combustible environment.*



**DISPOSAL:** Use up or give away leftover paints and stains if they are usable. Do not put in your trash; flammable liquids can be recycled. Bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

## LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS

**Δ HAZARD:** Many modern gardening and houseplant products, such as pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides, contain hazardous chemicals. "Weed and feed" products, which combine weed killers with fertilizers, spread toxic chemicals over a large area. People, pets, and wildlife are exposed to the weed killers. Rains may send toxins flowing into local streams. Consider that using a lot of chemicals on your lawn may lead to a lawn that is choked with thatch and dependent on chemicals.

Try the "three holidays" fertilizer method:  
a slow-release "weed and feed" on Memorial Day,  
a "cool" (lower nitrogen number) fertilizer on July 4<sup>th</sup>,  
and a slow-release "winterizer" on Labor Day.



Pesticides and insecticides may kill pests, but they may also harm your family's health and the environment. Commercial chemicals such as "fog" or "bombs" are highly flammable. Pesticides and insecticides in all forms (liquids, solids, and aerosols), irritate the eyes and skin and can poison. Other health effects can include nervous system damage, cancer, and reproductive problems.

Many chemical pesticides and insecticides can ultimately kill beneficial species such as birds, ladybugs, or ground beetles, which help to eliminate real pests. If allowed to run off your yard into curbs and storm drains, they may harm fish and other organisms in lakes and streams. If you use chemicals, read the label and follow all directions and safety precautions.



**DISPOSAL:** Take unused herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, and all lawn and garden chemicals and products to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.

## MOTOR OIL

**Δ HAZARD:** Used motor oil contains petroleum and metals from your engine and is both poisonous and flammable. Oil dumped into a curb or storm drain is not treated and eventually ends up in creeks, streams, and rivers, damaging water quality and endangering fish and wildlife.



**DISPOSAL:** Don't pour motor oil down any drain (or on the ground); it can be recycled. Bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 520-7878 for information.