

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACT SHEETS

The following fact sheets provide detailed information on Household Hazardous Waste and related issues – how to define it, potential health and environmental risks, proper disposal methods, the use of nontoxic, alternative products – and more.

Please use this information as:

- **A quick reference source** to enhance the HHW efforts already ongoing in your city
- **Materials for community outreach and media relations** – they can be reproduced and distributed through your existing community and media outreach channels by accompanying news releases, PSAs, op-eds and letters to the editor. They may also be disseminated to local community-based organizations for insertion in their newsletters or used as information sheets at local community events. And don't forget to include them in your own city bulletins!

How to use these fact sheets:

- These fact sheets are designed to be used independently – each fact sheet has a slightly different focus, yet they all contain core information – such as how to find a Roundup by calling 888-CLEAN-LA or visiting www.888CLEANLA.com.
- Feel free to incorporate your city logo and/or the Project Pollution logo (included in this manual) and use these fact sheets in their current format.
- These materials will also be available shortly on www.888CLEANLA.com. We will notify you when these materials are up on the site for you to download.

Fact sheets provided include:

- What is household hazardous waste?
- Toxic products – dangers of improper storage, management and disposal
- How to dispose of HHW properly
- Make your home a Toxic Free Home – source reduction tips and recipes for nontoxic alternatives to hazardous household products
- Helpful activity-specific tips about safe storage/disposal, source reduction and alternative products and practices
- The stormwater pollution and household hazardous waste connection
- What children should know about household hazardous waste
- Home hazardous product survey for parents and children
- Household hazardous waste and the dangers of inhalant abuse

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Many people are surprised to learn that Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) extends beyond the more obvious items used motor oil and paint and includes such daily household products as window cleaners, glue and nail polish. HHW is any toxic product located within the home that poses a threat to public health and environmental safety when handled, stored and/or disposed of improperly. While safe for you to use properly, we must remember that these same products are considered *Hazardous Waste* when we're ready to dispose of the leftover products.

Unusable or unwanted household chemicals that are considered Household Hazardous Waste can easily be identified by carefully reading product labels and checking for any of these key words:

- Caution, Warning or Danger try to buy products labeled caution whenever possible
- Toxic poisonous or lethal when ingested, touched and or inhaled, even in small quantities
- Corrosive acids or bases which deteriorate the surface of other materials and/or living tissues by chemical reaction
- Flammable chemicals that ignite easily

Examples of Household Hazardous Products include:

Paint & Paint-Related Products Turpentine paint stripper Latex/water-based paint Oil-based paint Rust remover Paint thinner Varnish	Lawn/Garden-Care Products Pesticide/insecticide Weed killer Snail killer Bug spray Fungicide Herbicide Fertilizer	Beauty Products & Medicines Products in aerosol cans Alcohol-based lotions Nail polish remover Isopropyl alcohol Expired medicine Hair relaxers Depilatories Deodorizers Nail polish
Household Cleaners Ammonia-based cleaners Tub & tile cleaners Toilet bowl cleaners Floor care products Aluminum cleaners Window cleaners Aerosol cleaners Copper cleaners Furniture polish Metal polishes Oven cleaners Drain cleaners	Automotive Fluids & Batteries Windshield washer solution Auto body repair products Metal polish with solvent Fuel oil and other oils Lead acid batteries Transmission fluid Brake fluid Antifreeze Diesel fuel Motor oil Kerosene Gasoline Car wax	Miscellaneous Cell phone rechargeable batteries Swimming pool chemicals Photographic chemicals Mercury thermometers Dry cleaning solvents Mercury vapor lights Mercury batteries Fluorescent lights Fiberglass epoxy Lighter fluid Shoe polish Moth balls Glue

Toxic Products -- Dangers of Improper Storage, Management and Disposal

If you're like most people, you've stored your leftover paint, motor oil, household cleaners and pesticides in a corner or on a shelf in your garage, neglecting it for months -- even years -- at a time. But what you may not know is that these leftover products are potentially dangerous to your family, neighbors, garden and even your pets!

Protect your family:

Each year, a staggering one out of ten children is injured at home from household hazardous chemicals through inhalation, absorption or contact with the eyes or skin. Handle toxic products with care by following these helpful tips:

DO:

- Follow directions carefully and use only recommended portions
- Store in tightly sealed containers in cool, dry locations
- Store in original container
- Store out of reach of children in locked cupboard

DO NOT:

- Do not repackage chemical products in containers normally used for food products or soft drinks *Children have died from drinking chemicals stored in soft drink and juice bottles*
- Do not store corrosives, flammables and poisons together separate these containers
- Do not mix chemical products or wastes *dangerous reactions can occur*

Do NOT dispose of Household Hazardous Waste the WRONG WAY

- Do NOT Throw in the Household Garbage:
Dumping household hazardous waste into garbage bins is dangerous -- *and illegal*. When thrown in with regular trash, household chemicals can cause fires or explosions, injuring sanitation workers and go into landfills not permitted or intended for hazardous waste where the toxic chemicals could seep into the groundwater -- contaminating our environment.
- Do NOT Dump in Household Toilets, Sinks & Drains:
When flushed down a toilet, sink or drain, household hazardous waste goes through the sewage system to treatment plants not equipped to handle hazardous waste. At treatment plants, hazardous waste interferes with the treatment process by killing bacteria and contaminating the effluent that runs into the ocean and the sludge which is reused as fertilizer.
- Do NOT Pour in Storm Drains:
Household hazardous waste illegally dumped into storm drains contaminates our waterways and ocean, significantly affecting our quality of life in Los Angeles County. Many people don't realize that whenever litter, debris, motor oil, paints, fertilizers, pesticides and animal droppings end up in the storm drain system, these contaminants mix with millions of gallons of rainwater and flow untreated into LA County's lakes, rivers and the Pacific Ocean -- causing beach closures, disruption of aquatic life and health hazards for swimmers.

DO Dispose of Your Household Hazardous Waste the RIGHT WAY

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
Collection events are held at various sites throughout Los Angeles County and provide residents the opportunity to dispose of their unused toxic products quickly, conveniently and free of charge. They are open to all residents and are usually held on a Saturday from 9am to 3pm.
- Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com to find the date and location of a free HHW collection event near you.
- Additionally, some cities provide permanent HHW collection sites that accept unused toxic products from residents of that specific city during defined hours of operations. Call your city for more information about permanent HHW collection facilities.

How to Prepare

- Bring any unused chemicals that may be hazardous
- Keep the waste in its original container
- Make sure the container is not leaking
- Bring the items in a sturdy box that can be left behind
- Do not bring explosives, ammunition, tires, bio-medical waste or radioactive material
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per vehicle

How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly

❖ Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

HHW collection events are held at various sites throughout Los Angeles County and provide residents the opportunity to dispose of their unused toxic products quickly, conveniently and free of charge. They are open to all residents and are usually held on a Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Additionally, some cities provide permanent HHW collection sites that accept unused toxic products from residents of that specific city during defined hours of operations.

❖ How to prepare:

- Bring any unused chemicals that may be hazardous (latex/oil-based paint, used motor oil, leftover fertilizer, etc.) in a sturdy box
- Make sure the container is not leaking
- Do not mix products together *dangerous reactions can occur*
- Do not bring explosives, ammunition, tires or radioactive materials

- Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com for the location and date of a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup near you or call your city for more information about permanent HHW collection facilities.

Dangers of Improper -- *and illegal* -- Disposal

❖ Household Garbage

Dumping household hazardous waste into garbage bins is dangerous -- *and illegal*. When thrown in with regular trash, household chemicals can cause fires or explosions, injuring sanitation workers and go into landfills not permitted or intended for hazardous waste where the toxic chemicals could seep into the groundwater -- contaminating our environment.

❖ Household Toilets, Sinks & Drains

When flushed down a toilet, sink or drain, household hazardous waste goes through the sewage system to treatment plants not equipped to handle hazardous waste. At treatment plants, hazardous waste interferes with the treatment process by killing bacteria and contaminating the effluent that runs into the ocean and the sludge which is reused as

❖ Storm Drains

Household hazardous waste illegally dumped into storm drains contaminates our waterways and ocean, significantly affecting our quality of life in Los Angeles County. Many people don't realize that whenever litter, debris, motor oil, paints, fertilizers, pesticides and animal droppings end up in the storm drain system, these contaminants mix with millions of gallons of rainwater and flow untreated into LA County's lakes, rivers and the Pacific Ocean -- causing beach closures, disruption of aquatic life and health hazards for swimmers.

Make Your Home a Toxic.Free.Home.

Take these easy steps to reduce hazardous products in your homes

- Make an effort to buy products that are water-based, less hazardous and non-toxic
- Buy only the amount you need to do the job
- Avoid aerosol sprays -- choose the pump spray or other alternatives
- USE IT UP -- or give leftovers to a neighbor, business or charity that can use them up
- Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers. Do not apply before a rain -- not only will you lose most of the pesticides or fertilizer through runoff, but you'll also be harming the environment. Also, do not overwater after application. Read the label -- do not apply more than is recommended

Dispose of Your Household Hazardous Waste the RIGHT WAY

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
HHW collection events are held at various sites throughout Los Angeles County and provide residents the opportunity to dispose of their unused toxic products quickly, conveniently and free of charge. They are open to all residents and are usually held on a Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Additionally, some cities provide permanent HHW collection sites that accept unused toxic products from residents of that specific city during defined hours of operations.
- Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com for the location and date of an upcoming Roundup or call your city for more information about permanent HHW collection facilities.

How to Prepare

- Bring any unused materials that may be hazardous
- Keep the waste in its original container
- Make sure the container is not leaking
- Bring the items in a sturdy box that can be left behind
- Do not bring explosives, ammunition, tires, bio-medical waste or radioactive material
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per vehicle

Try these easy and less-toxic alternatives
to minimize household hazardous waste

KITCHEN

Spray Disinfectant Cleaner

1 teaspoon sodium lauryl sulfate

1 teaspoon borax

2 tablespoons white vinegar

2 cups hot water

¼ teaspoon eucalyptus essential oil

¼ teaspoon lavender essential oil

3 drops tea tree essential oil

Mix all ingredients together and stir until dry ingredients dissolve. Pour into spray bottle for use. Do not use on glass.

Brass/Copper Tarnish Remover

Salt

Flour

White vinegar

Mix together equal parts salt and flour, then add white vinegar to make a paste. Rub into the stain. Repeat if necessary.

Window Wash

Juice from one fresh lemon

2 cups water or club soda

½ teaspoon peppermint essential oil

1 teaspoon cornstarch

Mix all ingredients and pour into plastic spray bottle. Shake well.

Metal Cleaner

Fresh squeezed juice of 2 lemons

1/3 cup baking soda

1 teaspoon fine salt

6 tablespoons clay powder

Mix all ingredients together until pasty. Add water or more clay if needed. Rub paste onto metal with extremely fine steel wool and allow to sit for fifteen minutes. Wash off with a sponge and clear water. Polish metal with a soft cloth. Do not use on aluminum.

Dish Detergent

½ cup clay powder

2 tablespoons lime essential oil

24 cups sodium lauryl sulfate

6 cups baking soda

Mix clay powder and essential oil. Then, in a two-gallon pail or container, combine with the baking soda and sodium lauryl sulfate. Mix well. For liquid soap: add 18 cups boiling water and stir until powder is dissolved.

Abrasive Cleaner

1 cup fine-grade pumice

½ cup clay powder

2 tablespoons grapefruit essential oil

¼ cup baking soda

1/3 cup sodium lauryl sulfate

½ cup boiling water

Mix all ingredients. Apply with a damp sponge or cloth and scrub.

Glassware/Crystal Spot Removal

Dip spotted glassware into water to which a splash of vinegar has been added, dry with lint-free dishcloth.

Silver Polish

Rub with paste of baking soda and water.

Stainless Steel Water Spots

Rub area with clean soft cloth dampened with white vinegar. Wipe dry to avoid spots.

BATHROOM

Bathtub/Sink Stains

Scrub with paste made from cream of tartar and hydrogen peroxide.

Soap Film on Fiberglass Surface

Apply baking soda with damp cloth, rub and rinse off residue well.

Soap Film/Mildew on Shower Curtains

Pour full-strength vinegar on the shower curtain to remove soap film and mildew.

Shower-Door Track Cleaning

Pour full-strength vinegar into the track, let soak for a few minutes, rinse.

Toilet Lime Deposit Removal

Pour full strength white vinegar in the bowl, let sit for several hours. Scrub with sturdy brush.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

½ teaspoon sodium lauryl sulfate

2 tablespoons baking soda

2 tablespoons vinegar

1 teaspoon orange essential oil

1 teaspoon grapefruit essential oil

2 cups water

Mix all ingredients. Vinegar and baking soda will foam when mixed. Let mixture stand for 10 minutes before pouring into a spray bottle.

PETS

Dog House Flea Repellant

Wash dog houses with salt water. Scatter fresh pine needles or cedar shavings under your pet's sleeping pad. Keep bedding clean.

Pet Stains

Soak stained area in warm soapy water. Sponge with equal parts of water and white vinegar. Blot dry.

Flea Collar

2 tablespoons peppermint essential oil

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons rosemary essential oil

2 tablespoons white cedar essential oil

¼ cup citronella essential oil

2 tablespoons eucalyptus essential oil

Soak a natural fiber rope in mixture and let dry for several hours. Tie around pet's neck.

Flea Shampoo

2 cups boiling water

½ cup sodium lauryl sulfate

¼ cup white vinegar

2 tablespoons peppermint essential oil

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons rosemary essential oil

2 tablespoons white cedar essential oil

¼ cup citronella essential oil

2 tablespoons eucalyptus essential oil

Mix water and sodium lauryl sulfate together until completely dissolved. Cool. Mix vinegar and remaining ingredients and add to sodium lauryl sulfate mixture.

PEST REPELLANT

Mice Repellant

Stuff all cracks around gas and water pipes with steel wool to keep mice out.

Ant Repellant

Sprinkle cucumber peelings near ant infestations.

Anti-Insect Air Spritzer

2 cups vodka

1 tablespoon citronella essential oil

1 tablespoon eucalyptus essential oil

1 teaspoon geranium essential oil

1 teaspoon rosemary essential oil

1 teaspoon orange essential oil

1 teaspoon lemon essential oil

Mix all ingredients and shake well. Mist into air to keep bugs away.

Body Bug Repellant

2 tablespoons citronella essential oil

2 tablespoons rosemary essential oil

2 tablespoons geranium essential oil

2 tablespoons eucalyptus essential oil

½ cup olive oil

Mix all oils together. Dab on clothing and skin. Avoid eyes and mouth.

SPOT REMOVERS

Club Soda

Pour on fresh spots and stains to remove wine and foods from clothing, carpets and linens.

Double Duty Spot Cleaner

1 tablespoon tangerine essential oil (or other citrus oil)

4 tablespoons glycerin

2 tablespoons borax

1 teaspoon sodium lauryl sulfate

Mix essential oil with glycerin; add remaining ingredients.

FURNITURE POLISH

Lemon Scented Polish

1 teaspoon lemon oil

2 cups mineral oil

Mix and apply with soft cloth.

Dark Wood Polish

1 teaspoon olive oil

Juice of one lemon

1 teaspoon brandy or whiskey

1 teaspoon water

Mix and apply with soft cloth. Must be made fresh each time.

Unscented Polish

3 parts olive oil

1 part vinegar

Mix and apply with soft cloth.

Oak Furniture Polish

1 quart of beer

1 tablespoon sugar

2 tablespoons beeswax

Boil beer with sugar and beeswax. When cool, wipe mixture on wood, allow to dry and polish with a soft cloth.

Heat Blemish/Scratch Remover

Rub in mayonnaise and wipe off. Buff with clean cloth.

Water Spot Treatment Polish

Toothpaste (not gel)

Baking soda

Pecan

Apply equal parts toothpaste and baking soda with a soft, damp cloth. Rinse out the cloth and wipe off any residue. When the finish is smooth, buff with a clean soft cloth.

Restore color and shine by rubbing the spot with the meat of half a pecan, then buff.

BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Hair Dye Alternatives

Lighten hair:

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 gallon warm water

Rinse hair with mixture.

Darken hair:

Rinse hair with strong black tea or black coffee.

Red tones:

Rinse with strong tea of rosehips or cloves, or use strong black coffee.

Cover gray:

½ cup dried sage

2 cups water

Boil sage for thirty minutes, then steep for several hours. Apply tea to hair after it cools. Allow to dry, then rinse and dry hair again. Apply weekly until you have the shade you want and then monthly to maintain color.

Hair Shampoo Alternatives

Everyday shampoo:

Castile bar soap

Water

¼ cup olive oil, almond oil or avocado oil

½ cup distilled water

Grate castile bar soap and mix it with water in a blender or food processor. Blend 1 cup of castile liquid with olive oil, avocado or almond oil and distilled water.

Dandruff remedy:

Wet hair and rub in a handful of dry baking soda, then rinse.

Jewelry Cleaning

Rub a small amount of toothpaste on jewelry with finger, rinse well and polish with a soft cloth.

Skin Freshener/Soother

Add pulp-free aloe vera juice to water in a spray bottle and spritz arms, legs, back and face.

PAINTS/REMOVERS

Enamel Paint Drips/Spill Remover

Wipe up spills and drips with a soft wet towel lathered with pumice soap (the sooner the better).

Removing Paint from Skin

Rub with mineral oil. Wash with soap and water.

Arts & Crafts Paints

½ cup cornstarch

2 cups cold water

Food coloring

Mix cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Bring the mixture to boil and continue to boil until it thickens. Let cool slightly. Pour into jars and color each with food coloring.

MISCELLANEOUS HOME MAINTENANCE

Homemade Glues

Option 1:

6 tablespoons gum arabic

1 cup water

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons natural glycerin

Dissolve gum arabic in water, add glycerin, and mix well. Apply to both surfaces with a toothpick or tongue depressor. Hold together for 5 minutes. Make fresh batch each time.

Option 2:

4 tablespoons wheat flour

6 tablespoons cold water

1 ½ cups boiling water

Blend flour into enough cold water to make a smooth paste. Boil water and stir into flour mixture until mixture is translucent. Use when cold.

Option 3:

3 tablespoons cornstarch

4 tablespoons cold water

2 cups boiling water

Blend cornstarch and cold water to make a smooth paste. Stir paste into boiling water, continue to stir until mixture becomes translucent. Use when cold.

Option 4:

4 tablespoons wheat flour

6 tablespoons cold water

1 ½ cups boiled water

Blend wheat flour and water to make a smooth paste. Boil 1 ½ cups water and stir in paste, cooking over very low heat for about 5 minutes. Use when cold.

Removing Grease Spots from Walls

Make a paste of baking soda and water. Apply thick paste to the grease stain and let it dry. Brush the residue off with a soft brush or cloth.

Car Wash Soap

3 cups grated castile soap

½ cup sodium lauryl sulfate

3 cups boiling water

1 tablespoon borax

1 tablespoon balsam fir essential oil

Dissolve castile soap and sodium lauryl sulfate in boiling water; add borax and essential oil and mix well.

Upholstery Cleaner and Rug Shampoo

4 cups water

1 cup white vinegar

3 tablespoons sodium lauryl sulfate

2 teaspoons baking soda

1/8 teaspoon lavender essential oil

1/8 teaspoon ginger essential oil

Mix all ingredients together and fill a handheld rug/upholstery shampoo bottle half full. Shake the bottle vigorously and shampoo furniture using small circular motions. Scrub sudsy area well.

Laundry Soap

1/4 cup clay powder

2-3 tablespoons essential oil of choice

13 cups borax

12 cups baking soda

4 cups sodium lauryl sulfate

Mix clay powder and essential oil. Add remaining ingredients and mix well in a 2-3 gallon pail. Use 1/8 cup of laundry powder per load.

Household Hazardous Waste can be DANGEROUS! Here are a few helpful hints to BE SAFE

Hazardous Waste is any toxic product located within the home that poses a threat to public health and environmental safety when handled, stored and disposed of improperly. Toxic products can be dangerous to our family's health if not handled properly here are some tips on safe storage, ways to reduce the amount of household hazardous waste in your home, and proper disposal methods.

How to Handle Hazardous Waste

- Follow directions carefully and use only recommended portions
- Store in tightly sealed containers in cool, dry locations
- Store in original container
- Store out of reach of children in locked cupboard
- Do not reuse pesticide or other chemical containers for other purposes
- Do not repackage chemical products in containers normally used for food products or soft drinks *Children have died from drinking chemicals stored in soft drink and juice bottles*
- Do not store corrosives, flammables and poisons together separate these containers
- Do not mix chemical products or wastes *dangerous reactions can occur*
- Do not smoke, eat or drink when handling household hazardous products
- Use indoor faucets to clean all applicators (paint brushes, cloths, etc.) -- *water from outdoor faucets runs into the street and storm drains, heading out to the ocean, untreated*

How to Reduce the Amount of Hazardous Waste in your Home

- Purchase only needed quantities
- When possible, purchase products that are water-based, less hazardous and non-toxic
- Use products up before purchasing new products
- Share unused products with your neighbors/friends
- Safely dispose of all unused toxic products at Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

Remember These Important Tips When

- Maintaining Your Car
 - NEVER hose off engine cleaner -- degreasers or tire cleaners. The run-off goes into the storm drains, leading directly into the ocean
 - When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to catch spills. If a spill does occur, apply absorbent materials, such as kitty litter, and dispose of it at a Roundup

- When disposed of improperly, used motor oil is a major contributor to pollution. There are many locations in Los Angeles County to recycle your oil, oil filters and other automotive fluids. For locations call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com
- Using Paint and Paint Products
 - Buy water-based latex paint. It does not contain the harsh solvents of oil-based paint, and brushes can be cleaned using water
 - NEVER rinse paint brushes off using outdoor water faucets
 - If you have leftover paint, share it with neighbors or donate to graffiti cleanup organizations
 - NEVER throw paint or paint products in the trash, down the sink or toilet, or down the storm drains -- dispose of it properly by taking it to a HHW Roundup

How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly

Participate in a FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event! Collection events are held at various sites throughout Los Angeles County and provide residents the opportunity to dispose of their unused toxic products (leftover paint, used motor oil, fertilizer, etc.) quickly, conveniently and free of charge.

Some of the items you can bring to a collection event include: lighter fluid, nail polish remover, transmission fluid, antifreeze, motor oil, latex and oil-based paints, paint thinner, stains/varnishes, solvents, hazardous cleaning products, herbicides and pesticides, pool chemicals, hairspray, aerosol products, and expired medicine.

As you prepare your Household Hazardous Waste for disposal at a Roundup, follow these guidelines:

- Bring any unused chemicals that may be hazardous
- Keep the waste in its original container
- Make sure the container is not leaking
- Bring items in a sturdy box that can be left behind
- Don't bring explosives, ammunition, tires, bio-medical waste or radioactive materials

For more information about Household Hazardous Waste collection events, Roundup schedules and alternative disposal methods, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA (1-888-253-2652) or look on the Internet at www.888CLEANLA.com

The Stormwater Pollution and Household Hazardous Waste Connection

What is Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater pollution occurs when litter, trash, debris, motor oil, paints, fertilizers, pesticides and animal droppings end up on the roadways and in the gutters. These contaminants mix with millions of gallons of rainwater, flow untreated into Los Angeles County's lakes, rivers and the Pacific Ocean, and can create health risks for children, kill marine life, and contribute to neighborhood flooding and beach closures.

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste is any chemical located within the home that poses a threat to public health and environmental safety when handled, stored and/or disposed of improperly. Products that can be found in your home, garage and garden area and can easily be identified by carefully reading product labels and checking for any of these key words: *toxic, poison, reactive, corrosive, flammable, combustible or irritant.* Examples include latex/oil-based paint, used motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides and

So what's the connection?

When people dispose of their household hazardous waste improperly by dumping it on the ground, in the street or down the storm drains -- *illegally* -- these toxic contaminants flow into our waterways, ending up in the ocean, untreated -- endangering the health of our families and environment.

Follow these guidelines to help prevent stormwater pollution:

- DON'T LITTER – throw your trash in a waste basket where it belongs
- Use, store and dispose of all household hazardous products properly
- Dispose of all leftover toxic products at monthly Household Hazardous Waste collection events. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or log onto www.888CLEANLA.com for more information and to find the date and location of a Roundup near you
- Make it a practice to purchase non-toxic or less-toxic products for home and garden use
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly. Do not apply any chemicals to the lawn or garden before a rain storm or watering
- Conserve water by not overwatering lawns
- Use yard trimmings and leaves as compost. This keeps debris off the streets and out of storm drains, *and* supplies gardens with valuable nutrients
- Dispose of all pet waste in trash cans
- All used motor oil can be recycled. Take your used motor oil to a certified used motor oil recycling center. For a location near you, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or log onto www.888CLEANLA.com

KIDS BE SAFE! Help keep your home a Toxic.Free.Home!

If you're not careful, products in
your home can make you sick

Poisons are all around us -- bleach, drain cleaner, nail polish remover, perfume, laundry detergent and glue are all toxic products that can make us sick if they're not handled properly.

REMEMBER:

DO NOT touch
DO NOT taste
DO NOT smell

➤ any household products unless
you ask a grown-up you know.

- Make sure you understand warning labels on products in your home. Any product marked Warning, Caution, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Reactive, Corrosive or Flammable should NOT be handled by children and must be placed out of reach
- Little kids can't read -- when you're with your younger brothers and sisters, make sure dangerous cleaners are kept out of reach
- Little kids can't tell the difference between medicine and candy -- all medicine, even vitamins, should be locked up, safe from little hands
- Help keep your home and yard safe for family and pets -- keep fertilizer and bug spray out of reach

If you have a poison emergency and there is no help, call 9-1-1 or the California Poison Control System emergency hotline at 1-800-876-4766.

Help keep your home a Toxic.Free.Home. Ask your parents to get rid of leftover toxic products the RIGHT WAY by taking them to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. It's free and easy, but most importantly, it helps keep our communities and environment safe and clean. Tell your parents to call 1-888-CLEAN-LA, or visit the Internet at www.888CLEANLA.com, to learn how to dispose of household hazardous waste without endangering our health.

Parents: Is Your Home a Toxic.Free.Home?

Potentially hazardous products are hiding all around your home that you may not even be aware of – nail polish and nail polish remover, glue, insect repellent, deodorizers and household cleaners are all safe to use when handled properly, but when these products are handled improperly or get into the hands of children, they can be very dangerous *even lethal*.

Each year, millions of people are accidentally poisoned in their own homes. Although accidental poisonings happen to adults, the majority of poisonings happen to young children under the age of six years. 90% of poisonings happen in the home. Over 75% of the poisonings are accidental and most happen to children between the ages of six months to five years. Most of these accidental poisonings can be prevented with a little care -- don't let your child, your pet or yourself become a victim!

Take this simple survey to find out more about the household hazardous products that exist in your home -- and find out how you can properly dispose of household hazardous waste to make your home a Toxic.Free.Home.

❖ Look under your kitchen sink. What types of products are under there?

⇒ If any of the following products exist – your cupboard should be locked, or equipped with a child-safety device, to prevent children from accidentally handling toxic chemicals:

Ammonia	Carpet & upholstery cleaners
Cleaning fluid	Cleansers & scouring powders
Drain cleaner	Furniture polish
Metal cleaners	Oven cleaner
Rust remover	Powder & liquid detergents
Vitamins	

❖ Does your bedroom contain toxic products?

⇒ You may not be aware that these products must be kept out of reach from children and pets as well:

Cologne	Perfume
Cosmetics	Medications

❖ When was the last time you cleaned out the toxic products in your garage, basement or workshop?

⇒ Leftover hazardous products should be disposed of properly – by taking them to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit

www.888CLEANLA.com to find a Roundup date and location near you and take your unused toxic products:

Antifreeze	Adhesives/glues
Car Wax	Fertilizer
Gasoline & oil	Kerosene
Latex/oil-based paint	Lighter fluid
Lime, cement, mortar	Lead acid batteries
Paint thinner/remover	Transmission fluid
Turpentine	Used motor oil
Windshield washer solution	

❖ What about under the bathroom sink or in the medicine cabinet?

⇒ Toxic products in the bathroom? You bet! Make sure these products are safely stored and out of your child's reach:

Aftershave	Bath oil
Deodorizers	Depilatories
Hair dyes/relaxers	Isopropyl alcohol
Medicine	Nail polish
Nail polish remover	Permanent wave solution
Room deodorizers	Rubbing alcohol
Shaving lotion	Toilet bowl cleaner

❖ Have you peaked in your closets, attic and storage places lately?

⇒ Kids will find things in the tiniest spaces and will put *anything* in their mouths! Watch out for these toxic products lying around:

Moth balls & sprays	Rat/mouse poison
Insecticides	Batteries
Cigarette lighters	

❖ Dispose of your household hazardous waste the RIGHT WAY!

⇒ Now that you've successfully completed our household hazardous products survey and safely stored your products out of reach from children and pets, gather up the leftover toxic products that are ready to be thrown out and place them in a sturdy box. Make sure they're not leaking and never mix products together.

❖ Take your toxic products to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Now you're ready to take your box of household hazardous waste to a Countywide Roundup! Roundups are one-day, drive-through collection events scheduled in different areas throughout the County where residents can take their household hazardous waste. They are free, open to the public and are usually held on a

Saturday from 9am to 3pm. It's that easy! Additionally, some cities provide permanent HHW collection sites that accept unused toxic products from residents of that specific city during defined hours of operations.

- ❖ To find a Collection Event near you
- Call [1-888-CLEAN-LA](tel:1-888-CLEAN-LA) or visit the Internet at www.888CLEANLA.com for the location and date of the next Roundup near you **or call your city for more information about permanent HHW collection facilities.**
 - ⇒
- ❖ Thanks for helping the County of Los Angeles to keep our communities healthy and our environment clean!
 - ⇒ By properly disposing of your leftover toxic products, you're not only reducing the amount of hazardous waste in your home protecting your family's health but also protecting the environment from toxic contaminants entering our landfills, sewers and storm drains!

CAUTION!

INHALING TOXIC PRODUCTS CAN BE DANGEROUS!

You already know that toxic products exist in your home household cleaners, air fresheners and furniture polish under the kitchen sink, motor oil, varnish and leftover latex and oil-based paint in the garage but did you know that many of these products are being used by children to get high?

Inhalant use occurs when children abuse common household products such as glue, paint, air fresheners, correction fluid or markers to catch a buzz.

Take a look at these alarming statistics:

- A 1998 nationwide survey of students indicates that 20.5% of eighth graders have used inhalants compared to 22.2% who have used marijuana/hashish
- Chronic inhalant users can suffer severe and permanent brain damage; some die the first time they try it; other possible risks include loss of consciousness and irreversible damage to the liver, kidneys and bone marrow
- Inhalants are a gateway drug often leading to other illicit substance abuse. They are often the first substance young people try because they are legal, easy to obtain and difficult to detect
- More than 1,000 common, useful and legal household, office and classroom products can be used to get high
- Because the chemicals in inhalants enter the lungs in such high concentrations, they have a more formidable toxic profile than other types of abused drugs
- Every year kids die from inhalant use, but many parents and educators remain ignorant of this silent epidemic

Be on the lookout for signs of use:

- ◆ Problems in school failing grades, chronic absences and general apathy
- ◆ Paint or stains on body, clothing, rags or bags
- ◆ Spots or sores around the mouth; red or runny eyes or nose; chemical breath odor; drunk, dazed or dizzy appearance; nausea, loss of appetite; anxiety, excitability, irritability
- ◆ Missing abusable household items

THE KEY TO PREVENTING INHALANT ABUSE IS EDUCATION

Make your home a Toxic.Free.Home. and help prevent inhalant abuse:

- ◆ Buy smart! Purchase non-toxic/less-hazardous products and only what you need. Avoid products labeled danger, warning, do not ingest, corrosive, flammable, or toxic
- ◆ Store properly! Use safety locks on all cabinets and store all poisonous household and chemical products out of sight and reach of children and pets
- ◆ Use it up! Finish all unused products and recycle the containers or donate leftover products to a neighbor or community group
- ◆ Dispose properly! Don't throw unused products in the trash, in the storm drain or down the drain. Dispose of HHW properly at free, convenient HHW Collection Events. For information on an upcoming HHW Roundup in your area, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com
- ◆ Educate your family! Talk with children about the potential dangers associated with HHW products. Educate your children *before* they educate themselves

For More Information

- About safe use and management of HHW and the Toxic.Free.Home. campaign, contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works at 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CLEANLA.com
- On inhalants and the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition, call 800-269-4237
- On poison prevention, contact the California Poison Control Center at 800-876-4766 or the American Association of Poison Control Centers at www.aapcc.org