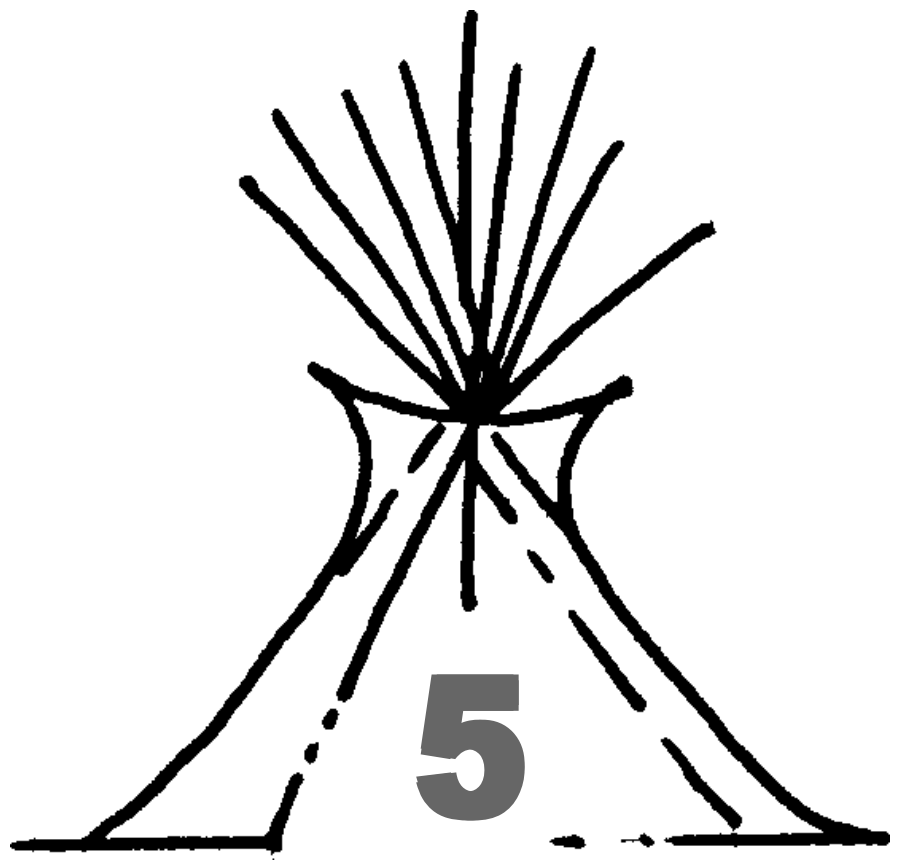


HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS



Some products you use at home can harm your health and the environment.

This fact sheet will help you reduce your risks. It covers safe handling of hazardous products.

- 1. Selecting, Buying and Using Products:** selecting products, how much to buy and safely using products
- 2. Safe Storage:** child safety, containers and spills, and ventilation
- 3. Product Disposal:** what to do with leftover products

Connected to the Earth

My grandfather survived on this Earth without using anything that did not go back into the Earth. The whole world could learn from that.

—Floyd Westerman, Sioux

Why should you be concerned?

Products you use around your home may contain ingredients that can harm your family's health or the environment. Vapors from common household cleaners and solvents can be hazardous to breathe. Things like motor oil and pesticides may contribute to the pollution of your drinking water or a nearby stream.

As you use, store and dispose of household products and chemicals, consider these questions.

- Which product best meets your needs?
- Are there safer alternatives?
- Is it dangerous to children?
- What is the best way to store it?
- How can you use it safely?
- How do you dispose of leftover products?

Remember that *you* are responsible for safely using, reusing, or disposing of any products around your home. It's up to you to make a good decisions.

What does "hazardous" mean?

Something is hazardous if it may cause harm. Household products are hazardous if they have ingredients that, if they are not used with special care, pose dangers to human health or the environment. Not every product in a category is hazardous—for example, some cleaning products and paints are less hazardous than others.

To be safe, learn how to properly use, store, and dispose of products. Know the difference between hazards to human health and hazards to the environment.

Hazards to human health

Health problems can be caused by chemicals in some of the things you use in your home *if the product's warnings and directions for use are not followed*. Health effects can range from minor problems like irritated skin or watery eyes, to more serious problems like burns, poisoning, or even cancer.

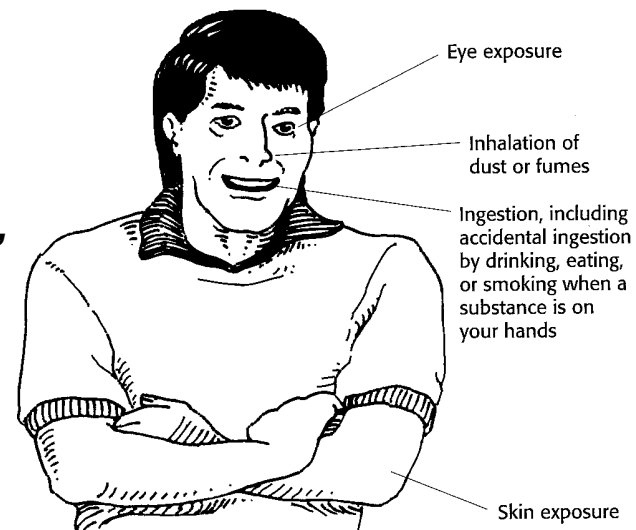
You can be exposed to a product ingredient by

- Eating or drinking (ingesting) it. Or by accidentally drinking, eating, or smoking when the substance is on your hands.
- Breathing its dust or fumes (inhalation)
- Contact with skin or eyes.



Fig. 5-1 Some products used around the home contain ingredients that can harm human or environmental health if not used properly.

Figure 5.2
You can be exposed to a product ingredient by ingestion, inhalation, and contact with skin or eyes.



The potential for harm from exposure to a hazardous product depends on:

- the type of chemicals in it
- how much you are exposed to
- how often you are exposed
- your size, weight and health

When someone is exposed to a hazardous product, some harmful effects appear right away. Symptoms include nausea, skin irritation, burning eyes, dizziness, and headaches.

Other effects, such as kidney or lung damage or cancer, take a long time to develop. A person who uses hazardous products often—without the right safety precautions and ventilation—may experience these serious health effects.

To avoid accidental exposure...

- Follow the safety precautions on the product's label.
- Always work in an *well ventilated* area, especially if the product contains a solvent. (Products containing solvents will have the words "Flammable," "Combustible," or "Contains Petroleum Distillates" on the label.)
- Wear protective clothing such as gloves and goggles when the product label recommends it.
- Remember that label precautions are there for a purpose—to ensure your safety while using the product.

Hazards to the environment

How we deal with products that we use on or near our property can affect the environment. Ingredients in some household products can be hazardous to plants and animals. Pesticides or motor oil washing into a stream, for example, can harm fish. Human health can also be threatened if our food, water, or air becomes contaminated through improper use or disposal of a household product.

Some chemicals can become a part of the environment without any harmful effects. But others last a long time and have many different effects. They can become a part of the food chain and be passed from one living creature to another. If enough of a toxic chemical builds up, it could harm an animal's ability to reproduce, damage its nervous system, or impair the function of its liver or kidneys.



Most chemicals likely to cause environmental problems are regulated by federal law. But since it's hard to keep track of the small amounts used by homeowners, everyone needs to do their part to reduce the overall impact of use and disposal. Some of the things you are used to doing when you clean up or throw away household products may not seem like they could cause trouble, but even old habits could be risky for your family's health and the environment.

To protect the environment...

- DON'T—dump oils, paints, pesticides, or any other household chemicals on the ground, on roads, or down storm sewers
- DON'T—dump products in a wetland, stream, or any other body of water
- DON'T—wash chemicals off the driveway with a hose
- DON'T—pour pesticides or non-water-soluble chemicals into a drain that leads to a septic tank
- DON'T—spray pesticides on a windy day
- DON'T—burn containers in a barrel or outdoor fire
- DO—Use up a product according to label directions.
- DO—Share any leftovers with a neighbor or local organization.
- DO—Find out if a product can be recycled and where to recycle it in your community.
- DO—Find out if your community has a hazardous waste collection program. Use the community program to dispose of any leftover products listed at the end of this fact sheet.

SOME HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE HAZARDOUS IF NOT HANDLED WITH CARE

Building supplies

- sealants, some adhesives, wood preservatives

Vehicle-related products

- antifreeze, oil, cleaning solvents, lead-acid batteries, gasoline

Home maintenance products

- oil-based paints, mineral spirits, products that can remove difficult greases or adhesives, paint stripper

Hobby and recreational supplies

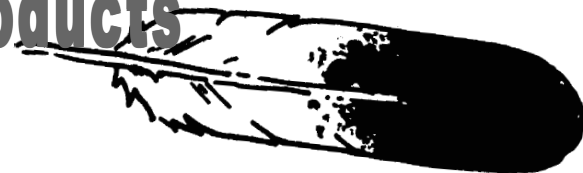
- photo developer chemicals, marine paints, electronic equipment cleaners

Pesticides

- herbicides, insecticides, rodent poison, yard insect foggers, chemical strips, fungicides, aquacides

*** See the chart on the final pages of this fact sheet for a more detailed list of products**

PART 1 • Selecting, Buying and Using Products



By carefully choosing the product you need for a job, you can control how much “hazard” you bring to your home or property. After you read this part, fill out table 1 to rate the risks involved with your choice and use of products.

Which products are hazardous?

It's not always easy to find out what is hazardous, how it's a hazard, and who it may harm. Learn as much as you can about a household product and its potential hazards before buying it. Labels have very important information and they often tell if a product could be hazardous. Avoid health problems by carefully following the directions for use and safety.

Remember, if there is no warning on a product label, that doesn't always mean that it is safe. Old products or products that are not designed for household use may not give consumer information on the label. When you use any chemical product, use it with care and caution.

In addition to product labels, up-to-date publications and advice from experts are also good sources of information. Ask questions, and look for helpful ideas from Indian Health agency employees, Cooperative Extension staff, articles, and books. See the end of this fact sheet for a list of products that are likely to have ingredients that may be harmful.

Product labels

The product label can help you decide whether it is right for the job and if it can be used safely for your needs. Before you buy, take the time to read the label, even if the print is tiny (figure 5.3). Labels give details about how to safely use, store, and dispose of a product. First-aid instructions are provided when needed. (See emergency note on next page.)

Household products that contain hazardous substances are required to have human safety information, or warning labels. Pesticide labels also provide detailed information on use, storage,



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Whether you are using a cleaning product or a pesticide, don't depend only on the label for information on health emergencies or environmental dangers. The information may be incomplete or incorrect. Poison Control Centers (which use a national computer data network) can provide emergency health information about a product.

Look up your local or state number, write it here:

and keep the number close to your phone. For information about spills of hazardous products, contact your state or tribal natural resources or agriculture agency, or the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

and disposal. Take a look at some of the products in your home, and check out the warning labels.

The signal words, CAUTION, WARNING, and DANGER draw your attention to important safety information. But depending on the product, they can mean different things. Pesticide labels give information about the poison level of the pesticide. Labels on household products describe immediate health effects resulting from *improper use*. The word DANGER is required on any product that is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic. Anything labeled DANGER, FLAMMABLE, POISON, VAPOR HARMFUL, or FATAL IF SWALLOWED is likely to have ingredients that could cause environmental damage as well as health problems unless you use, store and dispose of it very carefully, according to instructions.

Beware of wording on labels that is unclear or might be misleading. Manufacturers are supposed to follow federal guidelines when they use terms like "ozone safe" or "environmentally friendly," but the use of these kinds of terms is only regulated on pesticide labels.

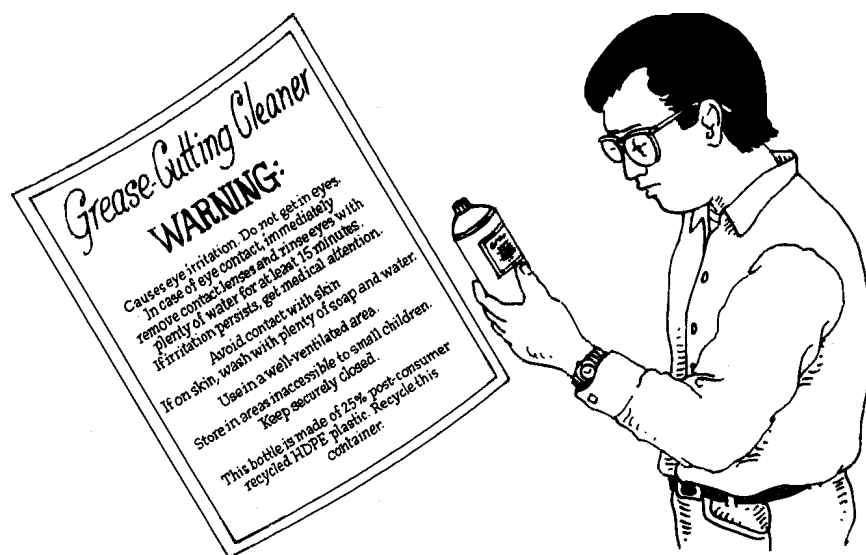


Figure 5.3 Product labels tell how to safely use, store, and dispose of a product.

If you need more information about a product than is provided by the label, you may want to request a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the manufacturer, or consult a Poison Control Center. Most manufacturers provide a phone number on their product label and will answer questions by phone.

Alternative products

When you choose from several brands of the same kind of product (for example, paint strippers or degreasers) read the labels to see which can meet your needs most safely. If you don't check first, you might buy a hazardous product like a solvent-based cleaner when a detergent-based cleaner or a common kitchen cleanser will work. Manufacturers are aware of consumer safety issues, and many offer a range of products. Some alternatives are suggested in the box below.

To help reduce risk from hazardous chemicals, many organizations have given out information about making mix-at-home cleaners using easy to find ingredients. But remember, your home-made product may not always be safer. If you make your own household products, be sure to consider:

- Use only one ingredient at a time. Never mix ingredients or products. Be sure to rinse the surface between products used on one place.
- Always test any cleaner on a small area before applying it to the whole surface.
- Do not use food products for cleaning (such as vegetable oil or milk). They may spoil or support growth of bacteria or mold on the surface being cleaned.
- Use clean containers when storing homemade products, and clearly label the container with the contents and date. Never store homemade products in old containers from commercial products.

Looking for an alternative?

Adhesives —Use a water-based or latex adhesive.

Batteries —Choose rechargeable batteries (removable, so they can be recycled) and mercury-free batteries when possible.

Cleaners —Choose soap- or detergent-based cleaners when possible. Avoid non-water-soluble and corrosive cleaners when others offer an effective substitute.

Household pesticides —Look for ways to reduce your need for these products through cleaning and maintenance.

Floor and wood-finish strippers

—Use a detergent or water-based stripper.

Paint stripper —Use sandpaper, a scraper, or heat gun for small jobs.

Wood preservative —Use a water-sealing coating.

Several of the above suggestions were provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



Do Table 1 - Selecting, buying and using products

The risk categories and advice in the table below and others that follow apply to hazardous products in general. For some products, some options are not covered. If you are not sure what to do, **don't take chances!** Find out what is safe.

Use the table below to rate your risks related to the products

you buy and use in your home. For each question, mark the risk level in the right-hand column that fits your situation best.

Responding to risks

Try to lower your health risks and reduce the possibility of harming the environment. Transfer medium- and high-risks to the action checklist on the last page of this fact sheet. Then work on reducing your risks.

Table 1 - Selecting, buying and using products

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Product selection	I always read labels; understand signal words; and respect the health or environmental hazards labels describe. I choose the least hazardous product for the job.	I rarely read labels or don't understand what they mean, but I use a "common sense" approach to safety.	I never read labels. I purchase products without considering what the product is made of or how it will be used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Quantities purchased	I buy only what is needed for a specific job. I use up most of the product within a few months after purchase or give excess away to someone else.	I buy excess product, but provide safe and accessible storage.	I buy more than is needed, then purchase additional product without checking on current supplies.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Safety precautions	I follow label instructions and take recommended precautions against exposure (such as providing good ventilation and wearing safety goggles and gloves). I never mix products.	Sometimes I read label instructions. I take some precautions. I occasionally mix products for specific cleaning tasks, but I always check safety precautions first.	I never follow label instructions and take no precautions—even when recommended. If one product doesn't work, I add in another without checking safety precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

* Safe disposal is also part of safety precautions. See part 3, "Product Disposal," for tips.

PART 2 • Safe Storage



Buy only what you need

If you buy more than you need, household products will create storage problems. Over time, unused product containers may leak, and the products may change chemically and not be effective when you finally try to use them.

Some products, such as pesticides, may have been restricted or banned after you purchased them. If that happens, it may be harder to safely and legally dispose of them. Avoid this by buying and using only what you need.

Leftover or used chemicals like strippers, paint, waste oil, used antifreeze, and solvents may need to be stored until their next use or disposal. How you store household products can determine how much risk may be present. Use the information below to help you fill out the assessment table at the end of this part.

Storage locations and containers

The first concerns in storing household products are child safety, indoor air quality and preventing damage to your home or the environment. If you can smell a product while it is in storage, the lid may be loose or there may not be enough ventilation to protect your health.

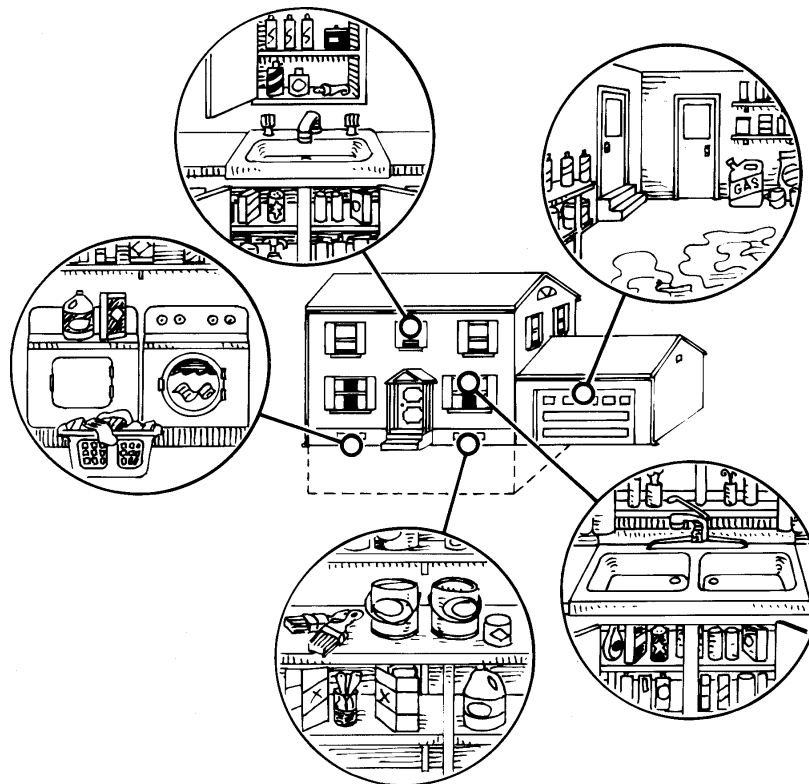
Always separate corrosive things like acids or lye from each other and from other hazardous products. If a corrosive leaks from its container and drips or flows to other products, dangerous chemical reactions can occur. People often store corrosive materials near equipment and appliances: Be aware that they can corrode and damage air conditioning and heating systems, hot water heaters, and other equipment or appliances. Regularly check areas where you store household products (under the kitchen sink, in the basement or garage) to make sure that containers are closed tightly and not leaking, and that the sides of containers are not bulging.



STORE HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS SAFELY:

- Keep them out of the reach of children and pets, preferably in a locked, secure area
- Store them in their original containers
- Clearly label and date any alternative containers
- Keep containers tightly sealed and dry
- Store products at least 150 feet from a well or waterway
- Keep products in a well-ventilated area and away from sources of ignition
- Store batteries and flammable chemicals in an area shaded from direct sunlight

Figure 5.5 Look for hazardous products stored throughout your household.



Do Table 2 - Safe storage

Use the table below to rate your risks related to storage. For each question, mark the risk level in the right-hand column that you think fits best with your situation.

Responding to risks

Try to lower your health risks and reduce potential harm to the environment. Transfer any medium- and high-risk practices you marked to the action checklist at the end of this fact sheet. Then plan actions to reduce your risks.

Table 2 - Safe Storage

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Child safety	I store hazardous products in a locked cabinet or other location inaccessible to children.	I keep products out of the direct reach of children (on a high to shelf, for example) but still accessible.	My products are easily accessible to children (for example, in an unlocked cabinet on the lower shelf).	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Containers, storage location, and spill protection	I store leftovers in their original containers, properly sealed. Products are stored by type. My home environment is protected against leaks or spills.	I store original containers in a disorganized way. I don't provide protection against leaks or spills.	I transfer leftovers to other containers such as used milk jugs or glass jars. I store leftovers without caps or lids. I don't provide protection against leaks or spills.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Ventilation	I store volatile products (like solvents and petroleum-based fluids) in places with good ventilation.	I don't pay attention to storage location, but each container is in good shape and tightly sealed.	I store products in areas with poor ventilation such as basements, closets, or crawl spaces. Containers are damaged or left open.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High



PART 3 • Product Disposal

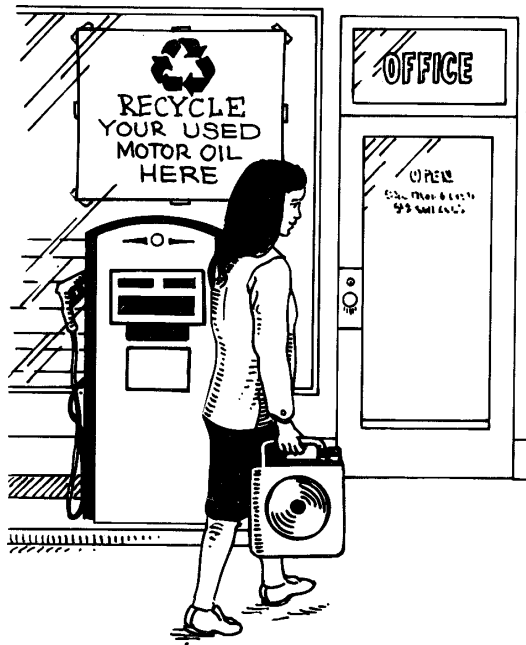


Figure 5.6
Used motor oil
and antifreeze
are accepted
in many
communities
for recycling.

Unless a product is used up, you will have to dispose of it. For some products that are especially hazardous—like pesticides—even the container has to be disposed of properly. Keep the disposal guides at the end of this part as a reference.

Getting rid of leftover hazardous products

Disposal should be your last option. It is wasteful and unless you are very careful to follow the rules, it can be unsafe for you and the environment. Avoid the disposal problem by buying and using only what you need, using up leftovers, or recycling. Give leftover products to a neighbor or organization who can use them. It takes care of your waste problem and saves money.

Options for recycling are increasing. Some communities sponsor swap programs to encourage sharing. Many communities and automobile repair shops accept used motor oil and antifreeze for recycling (figure 5.6). Some pesticide containers may be returned to where they were purchased for safe disposal.

Some reservations and communities sponsor household hazardous waste collection programs. Contact your tribal offices to learn exactly what materials are accepted. If your community doesn't sponsor a program, contact your tribal officials for disposal advice.

Small quantities of some products can be safely sent to a landfill. Leftover paint, for example, (if local regulations permit) can be evaporated in its can. Then the can with its hardened contents can be discarded in household garbage.

Paint and pesticides need special care

Paint: We all buy too much of it! Cities with hazardous household product collection programs report that paints make up about half of what people bring in. This ends up being a costly

disposal expense. It's best to avoid leftovers by figuring out how much paint you need before you buy. Measure the area you are going to paint and the salespeople at the paint store can help calculate how much paint you'll need.

Most leftover paint can be safely handled by sharing it with neighbors or organizations. But leftover lead-based paints or exterior paints containing mercury or pesticides should be treated as hazardous waste.

Pesticides: We don't pay enough attention to how we manage them! A 1992 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study of pesticide use in homes and gardens found disturbing information about how pesticides are used, stored, and thrown away. It showed that people don't recognize the danger that pesticides can pose to child safety, human health, or the environment when handled improperly.

Before you choose a pesticide, be sure that you have considered all other options for managing the pest, weed, or fungus problem (see suggestions in the box below). If you do need to use a pesticide, read label information carefully before buying. Buy only what you need.

Pay attention to the use and disposal directions on labels. Use up the product if possible. Rinse empty containers of liquid pesticides. Save the rinse water and use it in the same way you used the product. Fact Sheet 1, "Yard and Garden Care," tells more about yard and garden pesticides.

Reduce your need for pesticides

- Keep things cleaned up, especially in the kitchen.
- Caulk cracks and other openings to keep insects outside.
- Keep door and window screens repaired to keep insects out.
- Keep house plants healthy.

Is dumping or burning safe?

Never dump or burn hazardous products on your property, particularly near wells or water sources. Nor should you pour them down storm sewers. Water-soluble cleaning products may be safely rinsed down the drain if you flush it with plenty of water.

Septic system owners need to be especially careful: the rule of thumb is moderation. Don't dump large amounts of anything into the septic system—it's not designed to treat chemicals. If the product is specifically designed to be used in the home with water, then moderate use should not harm the system.

Never burn hazardous wastes in a barrel or stove. It's illegal in many states and burning may release toxic gases and produce hazardous ash.



Table 3 - Product Disposal

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Household Trash Trash containing plastics or empty containers of hazardous ingredients	I rinse empty yard and garden pesticide container and include the rinse water in yard and garden management.	I dispose of ash, mixed trash, and empty product containers at the community landfill. I do not burn trash. I dispose of ash from mixed trash, leftover pesticides and solvents on my property, but away from my well or waterway. I burn hazardous containers.	I always dispose of ash from mixed trash, leftover pesticides and solvents near a well or waterway. I burn hazardous containers near people or animals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Strong acids and bases Found in hobby and recreation products, concentrated building cleaners, and repair products	I share any leftover products. I dilute strong acids and bases and pour them down a drain that connects to a sewage treatment facility.	I pour strong acids and cleaners down the drain without first diluting them with water. I send leftovers to a landfill (with proper protection for garbage haulers and employees).	I dump strong acids and cleaners directly into a storm sewer or waterway or on a paved slope leading to a waterway.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Antifreeze, waste motor oil	I recycle antifreeze and waste oil by taking them to properly qualified dumping stations.	I pour my used antifreeze into a septic system or municipal treatment system.	I dump my used antifreeze and waste oil always in the same place, near a well or waterway. I dump these materials directly into a waterway.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Batteries May contain mercury, cadmium, or lead	I recycle batteries or take them to a hazardous waste disposal program.	I dispose of batteries in a community landfill.	I always dump batteries near a well or waterway.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Bottled gas	I recycle bottled gas containers.	I store containers that may still contain some gas.	I put containers in my trash or leave them lying around.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Cleaning and repair products containing hazardous solvents (non-water-soluble) and paint	I share leftovers when possible. I take leftover products containing mercury, pesticides, or hazardous solvents to a hazardous waste disposal program.	I dispose of leftover products in a community landfill.	I always dump leftover products. I dump leftovers near a well or waterway. I dump all my leftovers directly into a waterway. (NOTE: This is illegal!)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Fluorescent bulbs Contain mercury	I recycle burned-out fluorescent bulbs or lamps.	I put my burned-out bulbs in the trash.	I leave my burned-out bulbs at a dump.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Pesticides See fact sheet 7, "Yard and Garden Care" for more information.	I use preventive actions to control pests, indoors and outdoors. I explore options for nonchemical pest controls. I properly choose, store, handle, apply and dispose of chemical pest controls.	When solving pest problems, I do not practice much prevention or explore nonchemical options.	I do not handle pesticides as directed on the label.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

Do Table 3 - Product disposal

Use the table at left to rate your risks related to disposing of household products. For each question, mark the risk level in the right-hand column that fits best with your situation.

Responding to risks

Try to lower your risks. Record any medium- and high-risk risks in the right hand column of the action checklist. Use the information about product disposal to help you plan actions to reduce your risks.

TAKE ACTION

When you finish the three tables in this fact sheet, make sure you have recorded all medium and high risks in the checklist below. For each risk in your action checklist, write down the changes you plan to make. Use ideas from this fact sheet and other resources (see "For More Information" at right). Pick a target date to keep you on schedule for making changes. You don't have to do everything at once, but try to eliminate the most serious risks as soon as you can. Often it helps to do the least expensive things first.

Hazardous Product Inventory

On the following pages is a list of hazardous household products. Check for products stored in your home and use the list to plan ways to use, store, and/or dispose of these products.

For More Information

Hazardous household products

Contact your tribal, county, or state government. No matter where you live, government and agency personnel can help.

Pesticides

See fact sheet 7, "Yard and Garden Care." For details on pesticide use, see Guides to Pollution Prevention: Non-Agricultural Pesticide Users, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 1993, document EPA/625/R-93/009. This 58-page guide includes nine worksheets. Contact the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419; fax (513) 489-8695.

Disposal

The Water Environment Federation's (WEF) waste disposal guide provides disposal recommendations for many kinds of products. You may be able to get one from your local sewage treatment facility or contact WEF, Public Information Department, 601 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1994; phone (800) 666-0206 or (703) 684-2452.

Other guides are available from the Environmental Hazards Management Institute (EHMI). Write to 10 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824; phone (800) 558-EHMI; fax (603) 868-1547; or e-mail <EHMIORG@AOL.COM>. Your local Cooperative Extension office may have similar guides.

ACTION CHECKLIST: Managing Hazardous Household Products

Write all high and medium risks below.	What can you do to reduce the risk?	Set a target date for action.
Sample: Cabinet with antifreeze and paint stripper is not child-proof.	Buy a lock and install it on cabinet.	One week from today: November 28



Hazardous Product Examples and Inventory

Check for hazardous products stored in your home. Use the list below to plan ways to improve your use, storage, and/or disposal of these products. If you are unsure about disposal, contact your local Cooperative Extension office or tribal environmental department.

Category/product	Is it properly stored?	Is information about proper disposal needed?	Are there special precautions to keep in mind?
HOUSEHOLD TRASH			
Ash/sludge from burned home or garage trash (Note: Burning trash is illegal in many states!)			
Fluorescent bulbs/lamps (contain mercury)			
Waste motor oil			
Plastic wraps and containers (only hazardous when burned)			
Pesticide or solvent containers			
Empty containers from other product categories listed below			
CLOTHING AND FABRIC CARE PRODUCTS			
Mothballs			
Dry-cleaning fluids			
Spot removers (solvent- based)			
Shoe/leather polishes			
HOBBY AND RECREATION PRODUCTS			
Artist paints and solvents			
Charcoal lighter fluid			
Strong acids/bases*			
Bottled gas			
Household batteries (may contain mercury or cadmium)			
BUILDING/WOOD CLEANERS AND REPAIR PRODUCTS			
Building and wood cleaners with organic solvent ingredients:			
• Wood polishes			
• Products for wood floor and panel cleaning			
Building and equipment maintenance products:			
• Strong acids, bases*			

* Read how to identify acids and bases on page 5-12

Category/product	Is it properly stored?	Is information about proper disposal needed?	Are there special precautions to keep in mind?
BUILDING/WOOD CLEANERS AND REPAIR PRODUCTS (continued)			
• Lead-based paint (see section 6, "Lead In and Around the Home," for more information)			
• Oil/alkyd paints and primers			
• Marine and exterior paints containing mercury and/or pesticides			
• Aerosol paint products			
• Stains and finishes			
• Roof coatings and sealants			
• Rust removers			
• Silicon lubricants			
• Other lubricants			
• Adhesive removers			
• Paint and finish preparation products			
• Adhesives such as glues and caulk			
• Wood-preserving products			
• Products for brush or spray gun cleaning			
• Water repellents for wood and cement			
• Solvents, such as those used in degreasers and paint thinners, stains, and varnishes			
PESTICIDES			
Pesticides labeled "restrictive use"			
General-use pesticides			
Old pesticides			
Unwanted pesticides			
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CHEMICALS			
Vehicle maintenance products such as antifreeze, oil and grease, and transmission fluid			
Solvents for oil and grease removal and disposal			
Engine and parts cleaners such as carburetor and brake cleaner			
Paints and paint preparation products			

Category/product	Is it properly stored?	Is information about proper disposal needed?	Are there special precautions to keep in mind?
Lead acid batteries			
Battery terminal protector			
Tire cleaners			
Rust removers			
Ignition wire dryer			
Gasket removers			
Aerosol paint and primer products			
Brake quieter			
Brush and spray gun cleaners			

After your inventory

Now you are more familiar with hazardous products in your home. Review your inventory and ask yourself:

- Do I need all of these products in my home?
- Are there less hazardous alternatives I can use?
- Do I have as much information as I need to make good use, storage, and disposal decisions?

***NOTE: You can identify strong acids or bases by checking:**

- if the hazard warning label recommends that the user wear skin protection or avoid breathing the vapors or aerosol mists
- if the product was intended for commercial use (industrial-strength cleaner, for example)
- if the product was intended to manage difficult stains or dirt on hard surfaces (for example, rust or lime remover)

Acknowledgments

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