



TETRA TECH MPS

**A to Z...
Household Hazardous Waste
Products**

- aerosols
- ammunition
- antifreeze
- asbestos
- asphalt and roofing tar
- auto fluids
- batteries
- bleach
- brake fluid
- caulk
- DDT and chloride
- drain cleaner
- explosives
- flammables
- furniture/floor polish
- gasoline
- glues
- herbicide (weed killer)
- kerosene
- lye
- moth balls
- motor oil
- mouse/rat poison
- nail polish/remover
- old medicine
- oven cleaner
- paint thinner and stripper
- pesticide (bug killer)
- photographic chemicals
- propane
- shoe polish
- smoke detectors (radioactive)
- swimming pool chemicals
- toilet bowl cleaner
- toner cartridges
- transmission fluid
- varnish
- wood preservatives

Hazardous Waste in Your Home?

Surprisingly, many of the products we use in our home everyday are hazardous if they are used, stored, or disposed of improperly. These products can make their way into our water supplies - such as our lakes and streams - where they can be harmful to the plants and animals, or even contaminate drinking water supplies or make recreational activities, such as swimming or fishing, unsafe.

Always check the label to see if a product is hazardous. A product may be hazardous if the label has a picture of a skull and cross bones or, if it contains the words WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER or POISON.

Hazardous Chemical Properties

A product is considered hazardous if it is has one or more of the following properties:

- Toxic — poisonous or capable of causing acute illness;
- Flammable — ignitable and burns easily;
- Corrosive — eats through other materials; or
- Reactive — can possibly explode or react with other chemicals.

How to Reduce the Impact of Household Hazardous Waste

There are many actions you can take to reduce the impact of household hazardous waste. The list below highlights a few simple steps you can follow to protect your streams and lakes.

TIP: Only buy what you need

Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only what you will use.

TIP: Label it!

Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable so that the product can be identified.

TIP: Store products properly

Store hazardous materials in a cool, dry place inaccessible to children and pets. Some chemicals may become volatile in warm or hot climates, or dry out to the point where they are unusable. You'll save money, reduce waste and prevent potential accidental spills or exposure.

TIP: Follow directions

Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and follow all safe-handling requirements.

TIP: Give away extras

Offer surplus portions of products that are useable and safely packaged to others. For instance, offer pesticides to nurseries and paint to theater groups.

For more information on household hazardous waste and disposal centers in your area, contact:

**Genesee County
(810) 244-8524**

**Kent County
(616) 336-3695 or 336-2501**

**Macomb County
(810) 469-5467**

**Washtenaw County
(734) 971-7356**

**Wayne County
(734) 326 – 3936**

Look for more articles about storm water pollution prevention in future issues. For more information about MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan, check out: www.mdot.state.mi.us/stormwater.

TIP: Dispose products properly.

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste, because if it is simply landfilled, it can end up vaporizing or leaking into our ground water. These wastes should be recycled or taken to a household hazardous waste drop-off site or event for proper disposal. Contact your local disposal center for additional information on proper disposal and hazardous waste drop-off locations and dates.

TIP: Use non-toxic alternatives.

Reduce the amount of hazardous wastes you purchase by using non-toxic alternatives listed below.

Toxic Products	
<i>Chapter 1 – Non-Toxic Alternatives</i>	
Oil based paint	Latex paint
All purpose cleaner	One cup vinegar mixed in a gallon of warm water
Disinfectant / Bleach	Borax brand detergent (mix half a cup in a gallon of warm water)
Window Cleaner	One part vinegar to four parts warm water
Carpet Deodorizer	Sprinkle with baking soda then vacuum after 30 minutes
Furniture / Floor Polish	Murphy's Oil Soap or equal parts of mineral oil and lemon oil
Floor Cleaner	Mix ¼ cup white vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda with one gallon warm water; polish with club soda or add skim milk to rinse water for shine
Abrasive Cleaners	Bon Ami brand cleanser, Clorox Soft Scrub or baking soda
Drain Cleaner	Plunger or plumber snake; rinse with ¼ cup baking soda and 2 ounces vinegar
Fabric Softener	½ cup white vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda
Mildew Remover	Lemon juice and salt; or white vinegar and salt
Oven Cleaner	Baking soda and water
Flea Collars	Use a collar with pyrethrum
Herbicides	Pull weeds or mulch
Pesticides	Soap sprays
Mouse / Rat Poison	Use live traps
Wood Preservatives	Urethane