



You probably don't think of your home as a haven for hazardous waste but, in all actuality, it just might be.

Household cleaners, automotive products, paint and related products as well as pesticides and fertilizers all fall under the category of household hazardous waste. If disposed of properly, they needn't be a concern. But, if used and disposed of improperly, they can do serious damage to our area waterways.

An example would be pouring unused chemicals down the storm drain, which flows directly to the nearest body of water without the benefit of treatment. Another example would be over-fertilizing your lawn. This may seem like a harmless mistake but it can lead to much more serious problems. When it rains, the runoff picks up contaminants before leaving your lawn and empties them into the storm drain, where the excess fertilizer becomes yet another threat to area waterways.

It's not all gloom and doom, however. By following a few simple guidelines, we can greatly reduce household hazardous waste misuse and its negative impact on our environment.

Common Household Waste

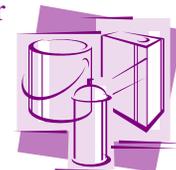
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Moth Balls
- Batteries
- Paints
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Brake fluid
- Oil
- Aerosols
- Household cleaners
- Rodent poisons

What You Can Do

- ◆ Try to purchase multi-purpose products and thereby eliminate the need for two. An example would be detergents that double as both a cleaner and a bleach.
- ◆ Follow the directions on the label for proper use and use only the amount needed for the job at hand.
- ◆ Buy only non-toxic, biodegradable products when possible and always seek out the most effective, yet least toxic product.
- ◆ Make sure you clean up all spills immediately by following the directions on the label for safe and proper clean-up.
- ◆ Try using latex or water-based paints

for your next project. Latex is less toxic than oil-based paints and can be disposed of in a sink that drains to the sanitary sewer. Of course, the best option would be to properly store the paint until later needed or donate it to someone who can use it.

- ◆ Seek out and use safe alternatives to household chemicals. The internet is an excellent place to find many safe, creative ways to do common household chores.
- ◆ Store unused products in a safe, convenient location where you can easily locate them the next time they're needed rather than purchasing more, unnecessary, products. Use all of the product so as to avoid having to dispose of anything more than the container.
- ◆ If you don't use or need all of a particular product, try giving it to a friend or donating it to an organization that might be in need of it.
- ◆ Never dispose of anything in the storm drain. Be it household waste, yard waste or even the leftover bucket of water from washing your car. Remember. What you put in the storm drain ends up in the nearest stream, creek or river.



Hazardous waste and storm water pollution are not problems to be addressed only by city workers. Both are serious, intertwined, issues that must be dealt with if we are to continue to enjoy the way of life we're accustomed to in Southeast Texas. When you get right down to it, all it takes are a few easily made behavioral changes.

If we don't make these changes now, we could face serious problems in the future. For example, the cost of treating our drinking water could significantly rise as could the need for costly clean-up and maintenance of area waterways and storm drains. Not to mention the fact that the city itself could be fined for failure to meet federal standards.

There is also the negative impact it could have on our economy. Bringing outside businesses into the area and thereby creating new jobs for residents is a difficult enough task as it is. How much harder will it be if the costs associated with cleaning a polluted water supply places an unreasonable burden on businesses? And, what about the tourists dollars that flow through Beaumont? No one wants to visit or live in a city with a polluted water supply.

Also, many of the recreational activities we take for granted, with our abundant resources, such as water skiing, boating, fishing and swimming are dependent on clean, safe waterways. It would be a shame to see our way of life permanently altered due to unnecessary pollution.

So, take heed to the warnings and do your part to keep stormwater pollution from reaching its full potential.



**CITY OF BEAUMONT
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT**

For more information, contact:
**City of Beaumont
Public Works Department
(409) 880-3725**

Household Hazardous Waste

*A Guide to the Proper Use and
Disposal of Household Hazardous
Waste*

