



Managing Chemicals and Household Hazardous Waste

Environmental protection begins in your own backyard

Do's and Don'ts

- Properly use, store and dispose of yard chemicals.
- Follow label directions for disposal of household hazardous wastes.
- Use alternatives to pesticides.

Did You Know?

Storm drains are not sewers. No treatment is done to the runoff before it enters a stream or lake.

One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field.

Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains and then flows to a waterway or ends up in groundwater.



Everybody lives downstream

Ever heard that phrase? Managing the chemical products you use in your home and yard protects not only your property, but also water quality far beyond your neighborhood.

One major type of non-point source pollution to

our nation's rivers and streams comes from urban sources where small actions of individual homeowners can combine to cause serious water quality problems.

When enough rainwater or water runoff starts flowing across the

landscape, it will collect and carry pollutants to our lakes, rivers and streams.

Listed below are some ways you can manage the chemical products and wastes in your home to prevent pollution problems downstream.

Pesticides/Lawn & Garden Products

- Read and follow all label directions.
- Do not mix products.
- Buy only the amount needed and use it all.
- Do not over-use products. It results in too much plant growth in rivers and streams.
- Donate or exchange leftover product.
- Read and follow disposal instructions.
- Triple rinse pesticide containers before disposing of them and use the rinse as an application.

Auto Maintenance

- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work.
- Clean up spills immediately by putting cat litter on it and sweeping it up.
- Collect used oil for recycling in containers with tight fitting lids.
- Do not mix different engine fluids for recycling.
- Take your used motor oil to a repair shop or gas station for recycling.
- Buy recycled ("re-refined") motor oil.

Car Washing

- Use soap sparingly.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not into the street.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

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Arkansas Dept. of
Environmental Quality
Helpline (501) 682-0923

Arkansas Soil and Water
Conservation Commission
(501) 682-1611

Read the Label

If a product has a hazardous substance, the label must include a warning and a description of the hazard. Levels of hazardous are identified this way:

- **Danger**—
Substances are extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic.
- **Poison**—
Substances are highly toxic.
- **Warning/ Caution**—
Substances are moderately or slightly toxic.

Buy the least hazardous product for the job.

Note—the word “non-toxic” is for advertising only.

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www.adeg.state.ar.us

Household chemicals and household hazardous waste

Many household products contain toxic ingredients. If used or disposed of improperly, products containing toxic ingredients can endanger our health and the environment.

Enough hazardous waste is generated in

one year in the United States to fill the New Orleans Superdome 1,500 times over.

The average American household generates 15 pounds of household hazardous wastes. Some of these wastes include automotive products;

household cleaners; paints and solvents; and pesticides.

Follow label directions regarding use, storage and disposal carefully.

Personal care products and pharmaceuticals

We don't often think of toothpaste, face scrub, or aspirin as being “hazardous.” But, many of these products contain complex chemicals and other compounds (like plastic microbeads — *polyethylene*).

Many of these compounds cannot be removed by processes at water treatment plants, and are then discharged

into our local streams and rivers.

Even very small amounts can be harmful to aquatic wildlife, and seriously impair the functions of aquatic ecosystems.

Never flush unused medication down the toilet or pour it down the drain. Try to limit the use of products with polyethylene in the ingredients list.

It also isn't safe to throw unused medication in the trash. Wildlife, our pets, and even our children can be harmed by chemicals in the trash.

To properly dispose of unused medication, visit www.artakeback.org and find a Take Back location near you.

Thanks to these sources:

Arkansas Drug Take Back Initiative
Task Force www.artakeback.org

Arkansas Natural Resources
Commission www.anrc.arkansas.gov

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental
Protection www.dep.state.pa.us

University of Arkansas Cooperative
Extension Service, www.uaex.edu

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov