

how you can help the watershed...

home toxics



Getting the job done right doesn't have to compromise your safety.

Home repairs, routine cleaning, yard care, and automotive maintenance are important activities that protect property values. Home improvements and hobbies enhance our enjoyment of daily life.

When undertaking any of these activities, consider how your actions are impacting your home, property and the environment. The products and materials you use, and how you use them, can make the difference in home and environmental safety. **Proper use, storage and disposal** are the key!

Improve water quality right now. Take care with home toxics.

Disposal help

Contact your local county home toxics reduction facility:

Livingston 517-545-9609

Oakland 248-858-1312

Washtenaw 734-222-3950

Resources for less toxic alternatives:

"Clean & Green - the complete guide to nontoxic and environmentally safe housekeeping"

by Annie Berthold-Bond

website: www.sustainable.org

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- A. Learn to **identify** home toxics. Examples include: hobby products (solvents, paints); yard products (fertilizers, pesticides); automotive products (antifreeze, motor oil); and household cleaning products. Pay close attention to warnings and precautionary handling statements on labels or package inserts.
- B. Save time and money. **Plan** your projects out in advance and purchase only the products you need to get the job done. When possible, choose less toxic alternatives. Check your local library, book store, or the web for more information on home toxics alternatives.
- C. **Less is more.** The next time you are tempted to "save money" by purchasing the jumbo-sized container, remember that you'll have the long term "cost" of proper home toxics storage and disposal. If you purchase too much of a product, let friends and family know you have extra in case they can use it.
- D. Store home toxics properly. Select cool, dry storage areas. Keep products in the original container. Store solvents outside your home if possible, in a secure storage area. Protect products from freezing when necessary. Check containers periodically for leaks. **Keep toxics out of the reach of children, pets and wildlife.**
- E. Dispose of home toxics properly. *Do not* pour toxics down household drains. *Do not* pour anything down a storm drain or into a ditch. *Do not* place home toxics in the trash. Improper disposal of home toxics contaminates ground and surface water, and jeopardizes drinking water supplies.



**When it comes to home toxics,
less really IS more!**