



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statewide Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week Announced

Waukesha, WIS. – Learn about the potentially harmful products in your home and how to store and dispose of them properly during Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week from October 3-9.

Certain household products contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable, reactive or corrosive. In some, like acid drain and caustic oven cleaners, the intended use may pose direct hazards to people, pets and the environment.

Other products, such as motor oil, automotive antifreeze and disinfectants, may be safe when properly used, but are hazardous when used or disposed of in the wrong way. Still others, like lead or creosote, may be particularly hazardous to manufacture, as well as to use.

You can minimize risk of exposure to toxic chemicals by:

- Reading product labels carefully
- Following application, storage and disposal directions exactly
- Using natural alternatives for cleaning, personal care and pesticide application

Resources like the Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia (EHANS) and the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UW-Extension) offer the public an abundance of information on minimizing the risk of exposure to harmful chemicals. The EHANS promotes cleaning and personal care product alternatives through its website located at www.lesstoxicguide.ca, and the UW-Extension publishes information on non-chemical pest management options, which are also found on-line at www.uwex.edu.

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“Statewide Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week Announced,” *continued...*

“There are some simple, yet effective ways for homeowners to reduce toxic chemical exposures,” said Karen Fiedler, the County’s solid waste supervisor. “In addition to buying only the required amount of a product, if there is any left over when finished, it is important to store it according to the manufacturer’s instructions. It is also important to purchase water-based paints and sealers whenever possible, and to only use a mercury-free fever thermometer.”

To aid homeowners in disposing of household hazardous waste, including old mercury thermometers, many communities offer special collections.

Fiedler added, “Special hazardous waste programs are expensive to operate and should only be used for old, unusable paints, chemicals, pesticides, wood preservatives and other products that cannot be used up by homeowners.”

For more information on Waukesha County’s Household Hazardous Waste Program or to locate information about disposal options in your area, call (262) 896-8300 or visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling.

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