

## **Latex Paint is *not* a hazardous waste**

### **Follow these instructions to dispose of latex paint at home**

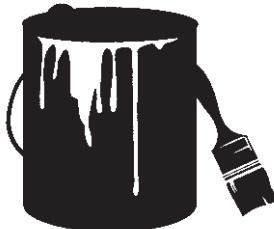
Paints—both latex and oil-based products—can pollute groundwater, so never throw liquid paint products into your trash.

**Since latex paint is not hazardous, it can be disposed with regular waste if you first:**

- Pour the paint into an absorbent material such as shredded newspaper or kitty litter.
- Allow it to completely dry.
- Dispose of the dried paint in the trash.

Oil-based paint, stains and varnishes are hazardous and should be taken to a waste collection event.

Paint thinners, turpentine and mineral spirits can be reused. Let the solid particles settle to the bottom of a closed container, then pour off the clear liquid.



Add kitty litter to dry the residue and dispose of the container with household waste.

## **Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force**

[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)  
412-488-7452

### **Partners**

The Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, formed in 2002, secures funding, organizes events and creates a partnership of individuals representing governmental, private and public organizations.

ALCOSAN  
Allegheny County Health Department  
Armstrong County  
Bayer Corporation  
Beaver County  
Butler County  
Cambria County  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Char-West Council of Governments  
City of Pittsburgh  
Environmental Resources Management, Inc.  
Green Tree Borough  
Lawrence County  
McKeesport Municipal Authority  
North Hills Council of Governments  
PA CleanWays of Allegheny County  
PA Department of Agriculture  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Resources Council  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
Venango County  
Westmoreland Cleanways

# **Hazardous Waste in the Home**

## **How to Safeguard Your Health & the Environment**

### **SOUTHWESTERN PA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE TASK FORCE**

*The Task Force's mission is to facilitate the proper collection and disposal of household hazardous waste and minimize its generation through education.*



412-488-7452

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Many common chemical products found in the home, garage, workshop and garden contain hazardous ingredients that need to be used, stored and disposed of responsibly and safely.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds of "household hazardous waste" (HHW) including cleaners, pesticides, paints, motor oil and other products containing hazardous components.

While such products are safe to use if you take the proper precautions, problems generally arise when you use—or dispose of—their improperly.

And if your household contains children and/or pets, you need to take extra precautions to protect everyone living under your roof.

## **HHW generally falls into six categories:**

### **CLEANING PRODUCTS**

such as aerosols and drain cleaners

### **AUTO MAINTENANCE**

such as motor oil and antifreeze

### **HOME ENVIRONMENT SUPPLIES**

such as insecticides and pool chemicals

### **HOBBY PRODUCTS**

such as oil-based stains and photographic chemicals

### **PERSONAL CARE & PHARMACEUTICALS**

such as mercury thermometers

### **LAWN & GARDEN CARE**

such as weed killers and fungicides

## **Did you know**

...Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste each year.

...In 2004, the Pittsburgh Poison Center received 5,643 calls about exposure to household cleaners.

...Most people are exposed to chemicals at low doses for long periods of time.

...Scientific evidence links many synthetic chemicals to increases in asthma, learning and behavioral disorders, infertility and cancers of the breast, brain, ovary, testicles and prostate.

...Children are at greater risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals than adults.

...Like humans, chemicals can enter an animal's body via mouth, skin, eyes or nose.

...Hazardous products poured down the drain or buried in the backyard may permanently damage rivers, forests and farmland.

## **Learn more**

The Pennsylvania Resources Council offers a free booklet, "Hazardous Waste in the Home: How to Safeguard Your Health & the Environment."

The handbook examines links between common chemicals and other health problems, provides information about non-toxic alternatives and provides recipes for making effective cleaning products at home.

The 28-page booklet is available online at [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org). Or request a copy of the full-color printed booklet by calling PRC at 412-488-7490.

## **Steps to take**

Make your home a safer place.

- Buy less toxic products.
- If a situation requires using a more toxic product, buy only as much as you need to do the job.
- Make safe cleaning solutions at home from products such as baking soda and vinegar.
- Collect products throughout your house and drop them off at a household hazardous waste collection event.

### **All-Purpose Cleaner**

1 quart warm water  
1 teaspoon liquid soap  
1 teaspoon borax  
1/4 cup undiluted white vinegar

Mix ingredients and store in a spray bottle. Use for cleaning countertops, floors, walls, carpets and upholstery.

## **For more information**

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