

## Learn more

about protecting everyone living in your home by contacting the following organizations:

### Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force

412.488.7452

[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)

Organizes HHW collection events throughout western Pennsylvania.

### Earth's 911

1.800.CLEANUP

<http://earth911.org>

Provides information concerning disposal of household items.

### Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

"Household Hazardous Waste" pages

800.346.4242

[www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

Offers information concerning managing household hazardous waste.

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

"Managing Hazardous Waste in Your Community"

800.490.9198

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Publication describes EPA's hazardous waste management program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).



*Note: PRC does not endorse or recommend any of the groups or organizations listed in this brochure. Individuals seeking information or services from them should fully research their qualifications and capabilities as related to their needs.*

## Thanks to

The Heinz Endowments  
for its generous support of this project.

Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force  
([swpahhw.org](http://swpahhw.org)) for contributing to the content of this brochure.



*"Working to protect the environment since 1939"*

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[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)



**Pennsylvania Resources Council's** mission is to promote conservation of our natural resources and protection of scenic beauty through public education and outreach in a collaborative effort with government agencies, business, charitable foundations and other nonprofit organizations.

# Sure Bets to Safeguard Your Home

**Protect your loved ones from dangerous chemicals found in or around your home.**



A Publication of  
The Pennsylvania Resources Council

**Take a quick look around your house and you may discover as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) stored in your basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom and garden shed.**

Surprised? Don't be — you're not alone.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate this amount of cleaners, pesticides, paints, automotive fluids 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 — them improperly. You need to take extra precautions to protect everyone living under your roof.

Common hazardous materials found in the home include:

- **CLEANING PRODUCTS** such as aerosols and home cleaning products
- **AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS** such as motor oil, antifreeze and brake fluid
- **GARDEN/FARMING & POOL SUPPLIES** such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and pool chemicals
- **HOBBY PRODUCTS** such as oil-based stains, photo chemicals and glues
- **PERSONAL CARE & PHARMACEUTICALS** such as mercury thermometers

*For more information about collection events and recipes for safe cleaning solutions, contact:*

**Pennsylvania Resources Council**  
412.488.7490  
[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)

or

**Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force**  
412.488.7452  
[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)

## Did you know

... Storing chemicals and other hazardous materials in and around your home can be a potential fire or poisoning hazard.

... Disposing of hazardous waste in garbage left at the curb or tossed into dumpsters can endanger the lives of trash and landfill workers. When chemicals are mixed during the disposal process, fires and burns can result in serious harm and injury.

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

... Americans generate about 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste annually.

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

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Look for these words on the label:  
**poison, danger, warning, caution, flammable, reactive, corrosive, explosive, toxic, harmful, fatal and hazardous.**

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### EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

If you have a poisoning emergency,  
call Pittsburgh Poison Center at  
**1.800.222.1222.**

If an individual has collapsed or is not breathing,  
**call 911.**

## Top 10 Tips for Safeguarding Your Home

### 10) DISPOSE OF EXCESS TOXIC MATERIALS PROPERLY

Attend a HHW drop-off event. For dates/times/locations visit [www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org), call the HHW Hotline at 412.488.7452 or check with your local municipality.

### 9) DO NOT MIX PRODUCTS

Do not mix products together. Keep materials in their original containers and label any that are not in their original containers.

### 8) DO NOT DUMP

Never dump leftover household hazardous waste products down the drain, into catch basins or onto the ground. Do not place HHW materials out for regular trash collection (this is both dangerous and illegal!).

### 7) DEAL WITH EXPLOSIVE/RADIOACTIVE PRODUCTS

When dealing with products that are explosive or radioactive, call your local fire department or law enforcement agency for instructions.

### 6) READ THE LABEL

Read and follow all label directions carefully. Heed all warnings and precautions. When in doubt, research before using the product.

### 5) LOCK IT UP

Store medications, chemicals, cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers and other dangerous products in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children. Use childproof caps on products.

### 4) USE NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Purchase non-toxic alternative products — or make your own non-toxic alternatives at home from items such as baking soda and vinegar.

Special tips for those moving:

### 3) DO NOT LEAVE MATERIALS BEHIND

Do not leave any hazardous waste behind when you move. Plan ahead to attend an HHW collection event.

### 2) IDENTIFY PRODUCTS IN ADVANCE

Identify which materials may be hazardous in your home, and make plans to properly dispose of them — don't wait until the last minute.

### 1) SEPARATE/SHARE MATERIALS

Set aside any products that you will use before moving or will personally transport to your new home. Share leftovers; ask the new homeowner — or friends/neighbors — if they can use any of the remaining products.