

## What is a Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous products are products used in and around the home that contain chemicals that are hazardous to human and animal health or the environment. By definition, household hazardous products are consumer products that are toxic, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or explosive. Labels on a hazardous household product will contain the words caution, warning, or danger. There are a number of adverse human health effects from exposure to these products. After a consumer has used these products, the remainder can easily become a household hazardous waste if not disposed of properly.

### Examples of Household Hazardous Products

- Cleaning agents & solvents
- Pesticides & fertilizers
- Polishes
- Batteries
- Anti-freeze
- Paints & paint thinners
- Motor oil
- Furniture strippers
- Lightbulbs
- Pharmaceuticals

## The Clean Water Campaign

The Clean Water Campaign is a collaborative multi-agency education and outreach effort coordinated by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for the 15-county Metro Atlanta area. The Clean Water Campaign's mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions.

Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution!  
#stormwaterpollutionprevention



The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District serves as the water planning organization for the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, which encompasses the following counties and their respective municipalities: Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign  
[www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)



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# Reducing Household Hazardous Waste Protects You and the Environment





## What can YOU do?

How you dispose of everyday household products can impact water quality as well as your health. Use these tips to help prevent household hazardous products from becoming household hazardous waste. Be the solution to water pollution!

In general:

- ◆ Buy only what you need. You'll prevent having to dispose of remaining waste.
- ◆ Never pour materials or products down the storm drain, drainage ditch, surface waters, toilets or sink drains.
- ◆ If you have leftover hazardous household products, recycle and dispose of products properly. The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials, [livethrive.org/charm](http://livethrive.org/charm), accepts many hazardous materials. You can also visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) to find local recycling centers near you or contact your local government for information on proper disposal and collection events.
- ◆ Purchase non-toxic or the least toxic material and products for the job. Find free natural cleaner recipes online.
- ◆ Always follow the directions and guidelines listed on the product.
- ◆ Do not over fertilize you lawn. Consider composting kitchen scraps to use as fertilizer.

## Home Improvement Projects

- ◆ Your local Lowe's, Home Depot and Batteries Plus Bulbs locations will recycle most household batteries and light bulbs. Never place these items in the garbage.
- ◆ Upcycle house paint with Global Paint for Charity, [globalpaints.org](http://globalpaints.org). If you can't upcycle, paints can be disposed of by mixing it with sawdust or cat litter, letting the paint dry then throw it in the trash.
- ◆ Store products in their original packaging in covered areas such as a shed or garage.

## Pharmaceuticals

- ◆ Drop them off at a collection site. Visit [cleanwatercampaign.org/meds](http://cleanwatercampaign.org/meds) for more information on drop off locations.
- ◆ If you can't drop them at a collection site, mix medicine with dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds and place container in the trash. Never dispose of meds by toilet or sink.

### Metro Atlanta Resources That Accept Hazardous Waste

#### CHaRM

The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials diverts household hazardous waste and hard to recycle items from metro Atlanta landfills and water systems.

[livethrive.org/charm](http://livethrive.org/charm)

#### Global Paint for Charity

Global Paint for Charity upcycles unused post-consumer latex paint by redistributing it to underserved communities around the world.

[globalpaints.org](http://globalpaints.org)

## Car Maintenance

- ◆ Inspect and maintain your car regularly to prevent leaks of oil, coolant and other vehicle fluids.
- ◆ Never work on a vehicle in the street or near a stormwater drain or drainage ditch.
- ◆ Perform maintenance work on a flat concrete surface where spills can be easily cleaned up.
- ◆ Place a tarp, ground cloth, sheet of plywood, cardboard or newspaper under a vehicle to capture any leaks or spills.
- ◆ Always use a funnel when pouring liquids to avoid spills.
- ◆ Use a drip pan under a vehicle when changing fluids, unscrewing filters and removing other parts that might leak.
- ◆ Immediately clean up vehicle fluid spills with rags or other absorbent materials such as kitty litter, sawdust or oil absorbent.
- ◆ Recycle used tires, motor oil and batteries at CHaRM, [livethrive.org/charm](http://livethrive.org/charm).

