



MSU-ES Dawg



September 3, 2012



Safety Tips: Safe Handling of Household Cleaners

Household chemicals are the most common poison exposure to children. Household chemicals are like agricultural and industrial chemicals in that they must be handled according to the manufacturer's directions. Safe disposal is also important, and they must be disposed of in such form as not to:

- Harm people and animals
- Harm the environment

Most household wastes are safe and can be disposed of safely and most can be go down the drain.

Tips for Acceptable Disposal-

- ✓ Do not mix chemicals when disposing down a drain. They may not be compatible. If not, troubles can begin with harmful gases, explosions or maybe both.
- ✓ PAINTS – Leave the lids open for them to dry out and then dispose in the garbage.
- ✓ Do not burn or dump hazardous waste on the ground – it will either sink into the soil or float into streams or other water containments, both of which will result in pollution and contamination.

Suggested Tips for Disposing Household Products-

- **Acids/Caustics products** – Some cleaning products contain these items (drain cleaners) and you should strictly follow the directions on the label. These products can be used even when they are a few years old.
- **Aerosols** - Aerosol containers should be completely empty before disposing them with other trash to prevent a potential explosion hazard.

- **Antifreeze** – Store out of reach of animals and children. This product has a sweet taste which is attractive to kids and animals. Don't pour antifreeze out on the ground. You can dilute it heavily with water and pour it down the drain.
- **Bleach** – Try to use up all of this product. **Do not mix chlorine bleach with ammonia, or acidic products such as toilet bowl cleaners, drain cleaners, or metal cleaners. Toxic fumes will result, some strong enough to be fatal.**
- **Cleaners and Polishes** – Cleaners and polishes, like for furniture, carpets, and oven cleaners should be used up completely when possible. Seal the empty containers and dispose of them with other garbage.
- **Disinfectants** – Use caution and follow the label for their disposal. Store out of contact for kids and animals.
- **Gasoline** – Try to control the amount you purchase at one time. Use completely by mixing the old with the new, fresh gas. Store in an approved container in a cool, dry place (not inside the home).
- **Insecticides** – Use insecticides according to the label. Store unused portions in an area away from kids and animals. Hold unused portions for disposal at a local "amnesty day". "NEVER" reuse the containers.
- **Paint** – When possible, use up all the paint or combine contents (if there is some of same product). Any unused or unneeded leftovers can be disposed into the trash by removing the lids, allowing it to completely harden and then dispose into the garbage with other trash.
- **Solvents** – Clean used solvents such as paint thinners, turpentine, and varnish by allowing the paint or direct particles to settle out in a container. Drain clear liquid for re-use. Do not dump remaining material onto the soil or down the sewers, drains or the toilet.

*~BEFORE YOU START-
BE SAFETY SMART~*

*** ** **

SAFE TODAY-

ALIVE

TOMORROW

*Ted Gordon – Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201
Excerpts: nmu. Ext.edu
2/21/2012*