



MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: Using Household Chemical Products Safely

Household chemical products must be used according to the directions on the container and must be disposed of safely. Safely disposing of household chemicals simply means 2 things:

- Dispose of them where they won't harm people or animals
- Dispose of them where they won't hurt the environment

TIPS FOR DISPOSING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS-

- ✓ Many household chemical products can safely be disposed of and are intended to go down the drain in normal home use.
- ✓ Rule of thumb – Use as much as possible and only buy what you need to avoid keeping a lot of surplus on hand.
- ✓ Unused balances (no more intended use) can be diluted with water and flushed down the drain.
- ✓ Household chemical products should not be mixed, so dispose of them one product at a time down the drain.

TIPS ON HAZARDOUS WASTE HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS-

Hazardous waste household products include acids, paints, poisons and solvents.

- ✓ As mentioned above- buy only what you need with as little surplus as possible. Reuse when possible.
- ✓ Do not burn or dump hazardous waste on the ground. Eventually it will flow into the water supply, contaminating the water supply.
- ✓ Hazardous waste should not be disposed of down a drain for the same reasons as above.
- ✓ Burning some waste products can release toxic gases or fumes into the air.
- ✓ Leave paint lids off, allowing the paint to dry - and then you can dispose of them in the trash.
- ✓ Allow liquid wastes to dry out whenever possible.

HINTS FOR DISPOSING OF PRODUCTS SAFELY:

- **Acids & Caustics** – These types of chemicals are found in some types of drain cleaners. Disposal should be strictly according to the label. They have a long term shelf life of several years.
- **Aerosols** – Empty these containers completely before disposing to prevent the potential for an explosion.
- **Antifreeze** – Store out of reach of kids and animals. The sweet taste is attractive to them. Don't pour antifreeze on the ground. Dilute it with water and flush down the drain.
- **Bleach** – Try to use the entire product. Don't mix bleach with ammonia or acidic products such as drain cleaners, toilet bowl, or metal cleaners. Toxic fumes will result and can be fatal.
- **Cleaners & Polishes** – Examples of these are rug, floor, oven cleaners and furniture polish. Use as much as possible. Seal the rest of the container and dispose in the garbage.
- **Disinfectants** – Follow the label on the container for instruction and with caution.
- **Gasoline** – Buy only what you need to use. Mix old product with fresh product. Store in an approved container and in a cool, dry place.
- **Insecticides** – Use insecticides according to instructions on the container label. If you have product left over not to be re-used, save it for a community amnesty day for disposal. Do not reuse the containers. Follow the label instructions for disposal.

- **Solvents** – Clean used solvents by allowing the particles to settle out, then drain the liquid through a filter and reuse the recycled solvent. Do not dump the contaminated material or to be flushed down the drain, to the soil or sewers to toilet.
- **Paint** – When possible use all the paint. You can mix paint with other paints. Allow balances to dry in the open container and then dispose in the garbage.

MORE DO'S & DON'TS FOR USE OF CHEMICAL HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS:

DO'S-

- Before buying a product, read the label to see that it meets your needs.
- Read label directions thoroughly and use according to the recommended concentration.
- Know which products are toxic and store them accordingly.
- Teach your kids the dangers of poisons.
- Keep hazardous products out of the kids and animals reach. Use child resistant caps and replace them after each use.
- Flush expired prescription medicines down the drain or collect them and return them to your pharmacy for disposal.
- Empty all aerosol cans by depressing the button until all product is gone.
- Wrap containers in newspapers before disposing in the trash if the label cautions about no skin contact.
- Contact the product manufacturer if you have questions regarding use, storage or disposal.

DON'T'S

- Don't remove product labels.
- Don't remove contents from original container for future use or storage.
- Don't mix household chemicals or wastes together.
- Don't store household chemical within the reach of children.
- Don't store chemicals on shelving that is normally used for food.
- Don't store hazardous substances in containers intended for food stuffs.
- Don't store hazardous substances in your medicine cabinet.
- Don't dispose hazardous chemicals by pouring them on the ground or down a storm sewer.
- Don't store incompatible products together. Flammables and corrosives should be segregated, and poisons should always be segregated from any other chemicals.
- Don't bury containers of leftover hazardous chemicals.
- Don't burn plastics, paint, insulation, or other potentially hazardous materials that might produce toxic fumes or gases.
- Don't dump hazardous wastes by the side of the road.

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**NATIONAL POISON CONTROL
 CENTER-1-800-222-1222**

**WHEN YOU'RE DONE MESSIN' UP
 CLEAN UP THE MESS!!**

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**Safety the measure of success
 Be safe!! Be alert!! Be alive!!**