



Gwinnett County

Department of Water Resources

Keep Grayson Free of Household Hazardous Waste!

As winter winds down, longer days, blooming plants, and rising temperatures are all on the horizon. Springtime marks the start of a new season and ushers in the tradition of spring cleaning. During this time of year, we often use many household products that may contain dangerous chemicals and can potentially become household hazardous waste. Cleaning agents, oils, pesticides, and paint are all useful for tidying up your property or maintaining your car. These products are perfectly safe while in the original container and being used as directed, however, these same products can become harmful to our waterways if they are disposed of improperly.

When identifying household hazardous waste consider if the material is corrosive or toxic, or can catch fire, react, or explode under certain conditions. This information is often located on the product label. Since these products can be harmful to our environment, it is imperative that you take the proper measures to dispose of them. This includes not pouring these harmful ingredients and chemicals down a storm drain, into a waterway, or onto the ground.

Many of these products can be properly disposed of quite easily. Below are a few tips that can help:

- Mix leftover paint with cat litter to help it solidify and toss it in the garbage.
- Be sure to read disposal directions on the product labels to reduce the risk of these products becoming hazardous.
- Many local retailers and organizations offer recycling programs and will accept home products for disposal.

Seek friends, family, or neighbors who may be able to use your leftover product. Other approaches you can take in the elimination of household hazardous waste are simply reducing the use of these products or even using alternative methods such as replacing drain cleaner with a plumber's snake. Instead of buying in bulk, purchase only the amount you need for a given project.

For more information about household hazardous waste disposal programs, visit www.gwinnettcba.org/recycling or check www.sustainablegwinnett.com for the county recycling directory. If you see any evidence of HHW, or any substance being discharged into a storm drain or waterway, report it to the Gwinnet County Department of Water Resources by dialing 678.376.7000.

