



## You Are the Solution to Water Pollution: At Home with Household Hazardous Wastes

Wondering what to do with the leftover household chemicals in your carport, laundry room, garden shed or basement? The more you know about Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) the easier it is to properly and safely handle them, reducing the likelihood of negative health and environmental impacts related to HHW interaction.

Household Hazardous Wastes are products used around the house that contain chemicals hazardous to the health of humans, animals, and the environment. Examples include cleaners, polishes, antifreeze, used motor oil, pesticides, batteries, paints, paint thinners, furniture strippers, and some personal grooming products.

By definition, household hazardous products are toxic, corrosive, reactive, flammable, ignitable or explosive. Labels on a household hazardous product will contain the words caution, warning, or danger. Many of these products should not be poured down drains, on the ground, or thrown in the garbage.

- Look at the labels of the products you purchase. Is there a less hazardous alternative?
- Avoid purchasing in bulk. While cheaper, you'll have to store a hazardous chemical in your home.
- If you have something to be disposed of, check with local disposal guidelines first.
- Be aware of "greenwashing" - the act of misleading consumers.

Although households are not regulated, they may discharge the same types of toxic materials as some industrial facilities. Industrial discharges represent less than 6% of the average daily flow to Cobb County wastewater treatment plants. Residential wastewater makes up 94% of the average daily flow. Consider how small amounts of pollution from each home can add up and pose significant problems if spilled into the environment.

For more information about HHW, visit

<https://www.cobbcounty.org/water/education/water-quality/home/household-hazardous-waste>

The Water System will conduct a Lunch & Learn about Household Hazardous Waste and alternative cleaning solutions on August 28, 2020 from 12-12:45pm. This event will be available virtually, registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunch-learn-webinar-household-hazardous-waste-tickets-113024780160>