



A Guide to

Hazardous Household Products

Safer Alternatives
& Proper Disposal



The **TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program** serves Wasco, Sherman and Hood River Counties with hazardous waste disposal for households, small businesses and agriculture, as well as recycling and waste reduction education and outreach.

www.tricountyrecycle.com

Many of us are more likely to associate hazardous materials with industrial products than with toilet bowl cleaner or paint used in our homes. Just because you bought something at the supermarket or hardware store doesn't mean it's safe for your family or the environment.

So... what makes a household product hazardous?



Flammable: Chemicals that ignite easily. Examples include thinner, nail polish and aerosol products, paint and paint products.



Corrosive: Chemicals that deteriorate the surface of other materials, including skin. Examples include bleach, drain cleaner, oven cleaner and pool chemicals.



Toxic: Chemicals that cause sickness or death. Examples include mothballs, engine cleaners and pesticides.



Reactive: Chemicals that produce toxic vapors or explode when coming in contact with other materials. Examples include lithium batteries and water, or a mixture of chlorine bleach and ammonia.

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Want to learn more? Check out the Resources section in this booklet or visit www.tricountyrecycle.com

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Introduction

haz•ard•ous: (a) depending on hazard or chance; (b) involving or exposing one to RISK (as of loss or HARM) *syn* see DANGEROUS.

Many of the products that we commonly use to clean and maintain our homes, cars and yards contain hazardous ingredients. Fortunately, many alternative products are now available to accomplish these tasks that reduce or eliminate hazardous chemicals. However, there may be times when you need to use a hazardous chemical to get the job done. This guide highlights important aspects of the process for purchasing, using and disposing of hazardous and alternative products, to help you achieve the best possible results and safeguard yourself and the community.

Products containing hazardous chemicals must be stored, handled and used with care and disposed of or recycled in special facilities. When using hazardous products, think ahead so that you're ready if something goes wrong.

- Each year nearly one million children under the age of five are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. Cleaning substances are the most common cause of home poisonings.
- Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes, such as dumping them in storm drains, or into sewer or septic systems, or into your regular garbage, can endanger your health and the health of others and the environment.



**The average household contains
63 different hazardous chemicals.**

(Consumer Products Safety Commission)

Common Hazards Associated With Household Products

Product	Hazard
<p>Toxic products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pesticides</i> <i>Solvent-based spot removers</i> <i>Mercury containing devices</i> <i>Wood preservatives</i> <i>Bathroom & kitchen cleaners</i> <i>Glass cleaners</i> 	<p>Toxic products can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poison people, pets, fish or birds • Cause cancer • Harm unborn children • Cause child growth problems • Cause child learning problems
<p>Corrosive products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Drain cleaners</i> <i>Toilet bowl cleaners</i> <i>Oven cleaners</i> <i>Rust removers</i> <i>Swimming pool acid</i> 	<p>Corrosive products can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blind you in just a few seconds • Chemically burn your skin • Put holes in clothing and furniture
<p>Flammable products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Aerosols</i> <i>Nail polish remover</i> <i>Paint thinner</i> <i>Charcoal lighter fluid</i> <i>Engine & brake cleaners</i> <i>Oil-based paint</i> <i>Roofing tar</i> 	<p>Flammable products can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start fires • Explode • Cause indoor air pollution • Cause smog
<p>Toxic air pollutant products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>General purpose cleaners</i> <i>Glass cleaners</i> <i>Hair spray</i> 	<p>Toxic air pollutant products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put toxic chemicals in the air at home
<p>Water pollutant products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mercury</i> <i>Copper-based root killer</i> <i>Pesticides</i> <i>Photo chemicals</i> 	<p>Water pollutant products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are linked to water pollution in our waters
<p>Lead-containing products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Computer monitors</i> <i>Televisions</i> <i>Automobile batteries</i> <i>Computer back-up batteries</i> 	<p>Lead-containing products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if broken, could release lead (a metal toxic to people and sea life) into your home and in our waters

Buying Safer Products

Purchasing safer alternatives to hazardous products—or using non-chemical methods that accomplish the same goal—are the best ways to make life safer for you and your family. An example, of a non-chemical alternative for clearing drains is a drain snake. Reducing use of hazardous products will also improve the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat.

Chemical Product Purchasing Tips (Follow these easy steps)

- 1) Read the label:** A quick look at several products will help you find the safest product that will do the job. This section tells you exactly what to look for.
- 2) Buy the safest alternative:** Buy the safest product that will do the job.
- 3) Buy chemical products only when necessary:** When considering a chemical product, ask yourself—will something else you already have do the job?
- 4) Buy only what you need:** Avoid “super” sizes and bundled products. The few cents you might save are not worth the risk of storing unused hazardous products.
- 5) Skip aerosol sprays:** Aerosols cause air pollution, and pose disposal issues when empty. Choose solid or gel products, or pump sprays.

Concerned about a hazardous product? Ask your grocer or hardware store to stock safer products.

Each of us must take responsibility for the impacts caused by the products we buy.



Reading Product Labels

The label should tell you what the product is for, how to use it, the hazards you can be exposed to, and what to do if you have an accident.

The most important time to read the label is before you buy a product. Many injuries and unsafe exposures can be avoided by reading the label. You are in the store looking for chemicals because you have a job to do at home. Maybe you have a drain that is backed up, or just need some window cleaner. How do you decide which of the many products on the shelf is best for you? Start by reading the labels.



What is this product for? Does it do just one job, or can I use it for several tasks? Are there any restrictions, such as “avoid using product around plastic, metal, or fabric?”

How do I use it? Is the product ready-to-use, or do I mix it with water? How can I mix the product safely? How much will I need to do the job?

How hazardous is the product? Read the product label to determine what types of hazards you face and how to protect yourself. Can the product burn your skin? Can it catch on fire? Should you use it outside? Should you wear protective gloves, goggles, or other equipment to prevent being exposed? All chemical products pose some risk, so know what you are getting into.

What do I do if I have an accident? Does the label say what to do if the product contacts skin, or is inhaled or swallowed? Does the label give you enough information to prepare for and respond to these accidents?



Common household products that are found in the kitchen, bathroom, garage, and workshed can be hazardous and must be disposed of properly.

Choose products with labels that say:

Non-Toxic - Touching, breathing, or accidentally drinking the product will not kill you (although you may get sick).

Biodegradable - Natural bacteria in the environment will convert the product into harmless chemicals.

Contains No Hazardous Ingredients - This phrase usually means that the product does not contain more than 1% of any single hazardous chemical or 0.1% of any single carcinogen.

Other phrases that may help identify safer products include:

- Free of chlorine
- Water based
- No dye or perfume
- Citrus based

Be aware that phrases like “eco-friendly,” “green,” and “environmentally preferable” can be misleading.

Choose products with label statements such as: “non-toxic;” “non-carcinogenic;” “non- petroleum-based;” “free of ammonia;” “phosphates;” “dye or perfume;” “readily biodegradable;” “non-fuming” and “recyclable container.”



If you select hazardous products over safer alternatives, you should use these products with extreme care, which means that you should wear gloves and goggles, keep children and pets away, and be sure that you have a good supply of fresh air.

Prior to each use, review the steps to follow if you have an accident, spill or exposure.

Where possible, avoid products having labels that say any of the following:

Signal Words: Look for the label signal word (**Caution, Warning, Danger or Poison**). Choose products labeled “Caution” over “Warning;” avoid products labeled “Danger” or “Poison.”

Definitions:

Poison, Danger or Highly Toxic – Swallowing 1 teaspoon or less can kill a person.

Warning or Very Toxic – Swallowing 1 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon can kill a person.

Caution or Toxic – Swallowing an ounce to a pint can kill a person.

Corrosive or Caustic – Contains chemicals that can blind you or burn your skin.

Flammable or Combustible – The product will burn easily, and may give off vapors that can ignite.

Explosive – The product or container could explode if mishandled.

Volatile or Contains VOCs – Contains volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) that evaporate and cause air pollution and potential health effects.

Provide Adequate Ventilation – Lots of fresh air is needed to keep you from breathing harmful amounts of the product or to prevent explosion.

Contains Propane or Contents Under Pressure – These are aerosol containers, which cost taxpayers more to dispose of and have more risk than do the same products that are packaged in pump spray bottles.

Other tips that a product is toxic include:

- Harmful or fatal if swallowed
- Instructions that call for use of safety equipment
- Warnings of environmental hazards (like toxic to bees, birds, and fish)



Household products that are hazardous are required to provide specific signal words – the product labels above showcase some samples of product manufacturers use of signal words.

Safer Solutions for Your Home



Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Drain Openers, and Oven Cleaners

Hazard

Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Drain Openers, and Oven Cleaners are among the most dangerous household products. They often contain acids or bases that can blind you in seconds, or kill you if swallowed. The products corrode pipes and fixtures, leading to expensive plumbing repairs.

Safe Solutions

Toilet Bowl Cleaners – Detergent-type products work well for routine toilet cleaning. Acids are only needed if you have to remove hard water deposits or rust stains. If that is your situation, consider using a cleaner that contains citric acid, or try using a pumice stone occasionally (Note: heavy use of pumice can abrade the toilet's finish).



Drain Openers – The best approach is to prevent blockages from occurring by placing cleanable screens over each drain opening, and by adding an enzyme or bacteria powder to the drains once a month. Slow-running drains can be treated with enzyme-based drain openers.

For completely blocked drains, use a wire “snake,” disassemble and clean the trap, or carefully pour boiling hot water from a tea kettle down the clogged drain. Don’t try any of these remedies if you’ve already used a chemical drain opener on the clog and the drain is still stopped up—in that case, call a plumber for assistance.



Oven Cleaners – You can avoid the need for dangerous oven cleaners by placing pans or aluminum foil in the base of your oven to catch drips. If grease or smoke deposits do form in the oven, take a safer approach to removing them. Use a mild degreasing product, such as one containing d-limonene or a plant-based solvent. Milder products may take longer to work effectively, so plan your cleaning job accordingly.

Glass Cleaners

Hazard

Glass cleaners often contain toxic ingredients that can easily be absorbed through your skin or inhaled. One common ingredient—butoxyethanol (also called ethylene glycol butyl ether)—can harm your blood, liver, and kidneys, and can poison an unborn child. Since most of the cleaner evaporates from the glass or from your cleaning cloth, using these products can pollute the air in your home.

Safe Solution

Safer glass cleaners will be labeled “vinegar-based” or “low-ammonia” cleaners.



There are many effective household products on the market that are much safer than their hazardous competitors.

Pesticides: Controlling Insects, Diseases and Broadleaf Weeds

Hazard

Pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and disinfectants, are poisons. Besides killing bugs and weeds, they may also poison children or pets, irritate eyes or skin, cause cancer, or kill birds and fish.

Safer Solution

Traps, baits, physical barriers, soaps and oils, biological controls (“good” bugs that eat “bad” bugs), and good housekeeping and gardening practices are the safest ways to control pests and diseases. It is impossible to keep all pests away from our homes and yards—but there are convenient ways to keep the pests from annoying us or interfering with our lives.

Soapy water cleans up many insects. Try using it in a spray bottle, on a sponge, or as a bath for a bug-infested plant.

Controlling ants:

Prevent access - Caulk cracks where ants are entering the house. Weather strip doors and windows (this will save energy too). When ants appear, follow their trails inside or outside your home and seal off entry points using tape, putty, or caulk.

Don't feed the pests - Store food in containers with tight-fitting lids or in the refrigerator. Put pet food dishes in a larger dish of soapy water. Empty trash each night.

Clean up the ants inside - Wipe up ant trails with soapy water. Vacuuming ants works well too.

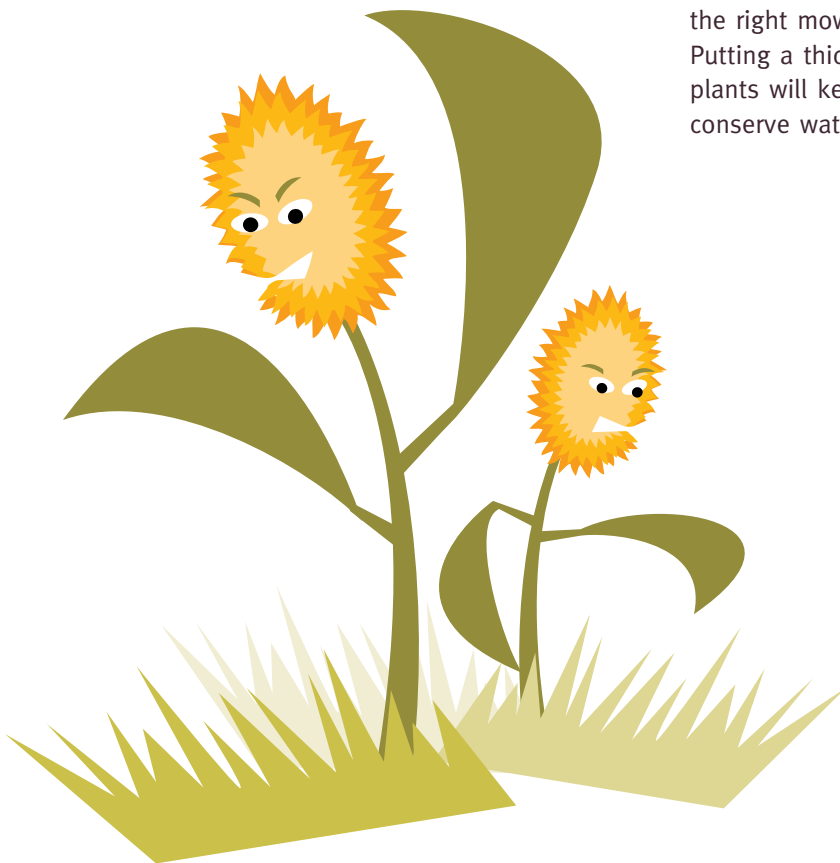
Use baits to wipe out the nest - The ants in your home represent just the tip of the iceberg. Use baits containing boric acid, borax, sulfuramid, avermectin, abamectin, or hydramethylnon to kill the nest and prevent recurring problems.



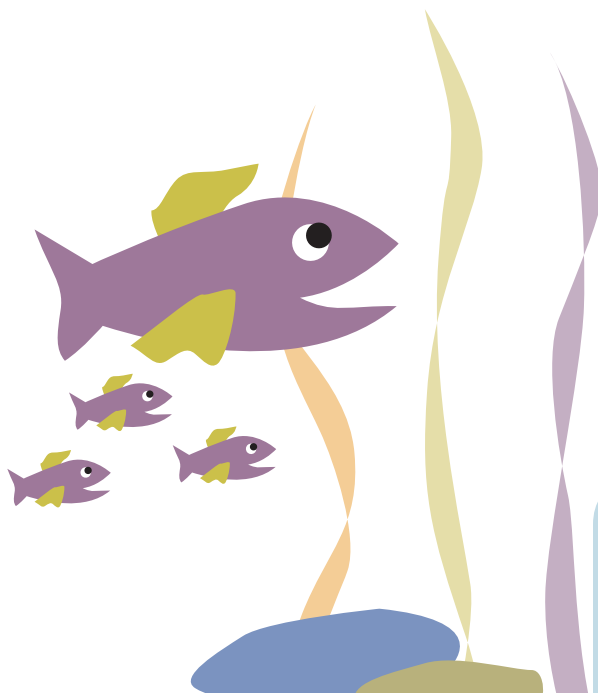
Controlling dandelions and other broadleaf weeds:

Skip the “weed and feed” products and try pulling the weeds, root and all. A weed puller (which costs only a few dollars) makes this job easier. If weeding isn’t your style, there are many other low-toxicity weed control products at your nursery.

Watering deeply and infrequently and using slow-release fertilizers will make your yard an unfriendly place for weeds. Keeping grass taller will shade out weeds. (Check with your nursery to find out the right mowing height for your grass.) Putting a thick layer of mulch around your plants will keep weeds from growing and conserve water.



Old releases of pesticides like DDT still make some fish risky to eat—In the past much of this came from industrial sources, but today most pesticide and fertilizer pollution enters the water from polluted urban runoff from our yards and gardens.



5 Simple Steps to Protect Your Family's Health and the Environment



1) Buy only latex paint and don't buy more than you need.

Oil-based paint causes air pollution. New latex paints provide equal quality and because they are water-based, cleanup is easy. Look for “Low-VOC” paints, which are the least polluting. Look for latex paint with recycled content, like MetroPaint, a quality recycled latex paint. Paint is the biggest household hazardous waste stream—so buy only what you need.



2) Light your barbeque with an electric or chimney starter.

Charcoal lighter fluid causes air pollution and it is very flammable. Both of these alternatives are cheaper, and make lighting a fire easier and more reliable—and you'll never run out of lighter fluid. Bring your leftover fluid to the Household Hazardous Waste Center.



3) Replace your mercury thermometers and thermostat.

Buy a new non-mercury thermometer for the medicine cabinet. Replace your mercury thermostat with an electronic programmable one—you'll save on heating and cooling costs too! Even a few drops from a broken thermometer or thermostat can raise mercury air concentrations in a room to unsafe levels. Bring any mercury-containing items you have to the Hazardous Waste Center. Don't wait for them to break!



4) Buy (or ask your mechanic to use) re-refined oil and safer propylene glycol antifreeze.

To ensure that you're getting high-quality re-refined oil, look for the API Certification seal.



5) Buy rechargeable batteries.

Start replacing your battery-powered electronics with products that have integrated rechargeable batteries. When you're done with rechargeable, lithium, ni-cad or button-type batteries, bring them to the Hazardous Waste Center. (Not alkaline or lead-acid batteries).

Handling Hazardous Products

If you use hazardous products, here are things you should do to minimize accidents and poisonings.

- **Read the label *before you open the container.*** Be sure to follow the directions for how to mix and use the product.
- **Prepare for accidents.** Think for a moment about what you would do if something went wrong, especially if you have a spill, or if you splash any of the product on yourself (see the Spills section on page 19 and the Accidents section on page 20). It's a good idea to have a back-up person around to help you if you get into trouble while using a product that is labeled "Warning," "Danger," or "Poison."
- **Follow the instructions** on what to wear. Gloves, goggles, and long sleeves can help avoid dangerous exposures.
- **Don't eat, drink, or smoke** while handling hazardous products.
- **NEVER mix products together!** Mixing ordinary chemicals could form a toxic gas or cause an explosion.
- **Make sure there's plenty of fresh air.** Work outdoors if possible, especially with paints and solvents. If indoors, open windows to maximize ventilation.
- **Keep products in their original containers.** It is especially important not to pour them into a food container (like a mayonnaise jar) that children might accidentally associate with food. If it is necessary to use non-original container, label that container properly; contents, hazards.
- **Always wash up afterwards** with soap and water.
- **Store products out of reach** of children and pets.

If you are interrupted for any reason (like to answer the telephone or the door) when handling hazardous products and medications, be sure to take pets and children with you. When using hazardous products, keep kids and pets away, do only one thing at a time, and don't leave the area until the product is safely put away. Do not leave containers of hazardous products unattended when children and pets are around.

Take extra care with the following products:

- Cleaning products that can cause burns: oven cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, drain cleaners, and rust removers.
- Solvents like paint thinners, strippers, furniture refinishing solutions, lighter fluid, gasoline, kerosene, and turpentine.
- Any product meant to kill insects, animals, or plants.
- Medicines (including aspirin and over-the-counter medications, which are the most common cause of poisoning deaths).
- Products a child or pet might drink, like antifreeze and windshield wiper solution.

Always follow the directions on the label except for directions that say to put the product in the trash or to dump it down a drain. Instead, bring the product to the Hazardous Waste Center for recycling or proper disposal.

Safe Storage for Hazardous Products

Safe Storage

Store hazardous products in a dry location away from heat sources, food, and medications and out of the reach of children and pets. Always store products in their original containers—having the safety closure and the product label is very important for your safety. If you have flammable and corrosive products, store them in separate places (they are not compatible).

Two things you can do to keep your family safe while storing chemicals:

- Store products in “secondary containment”—a solid plastic or metal container like a storage box, dish pan, or cleaning caddy. That way, if a product container falls over or leaks, the chemicals will stay in one place.
- Put child safety locks on cabinet doors keeping your products on the shelves and away from your family and pets.

Think realistically about whether you plan to use your hazardous products again soon. Why not drop them off at the TriCounty’s Hazardous Waste Center?

Cabinets used for storing common household hazardous products are attractive to curious young children. Please make sure you secure these places with childproof accessories.



Safe Disposal for Hazardous Product Waste

You can dispose of hazardous household products safely. Proper disposal keeps these hazards away from you, your family, and your pets, keeps the water and rivers healthy, and is safer for County, City and sanitation workers.

The TriCounty program provides *free safe disposal* of hazardous household products for Wasco, Sherman and Hood River County residents. Please use this free service to dispose of all your hazardous household products, including any chemical product that has an unreadable label.

What you can put in the trash:

- Empty containers – except aerosol cans.
Take the lid off before putting the container in the trash.
(Aerosol cans often contain residual propellant and may ignite).
- Dry latex paint. Leave lid off so refuse collectors will know what is being disposed of.



Drains, Gutters, and Trash Cans are not safe disposal alternatives!

- Every storm or outdoor drain in the Gorge leads to water. Everything in gutters and storm drains flows straight to a creek, stream or river—so don't let anything but rain get into the storm drain!
- Indoor drains usually flow to a sewage treatment plant, which isn't designed to treat hazardous chemicals. That means untreated hazardous chemicals flow into the water along with the treated wastewater.
- Hazardous chemicals in trash can leak or react and cause fires or release toxic fumes.
- Many sanitation workers have been injured by hazards in trash. In addition, once the trash reaches the landfill, there is a slight risk that hazardous chemicals will leak into groundwater, a major source of drinking water in Oregon.



There is no reason to keep dangerous waste products like old paint cans around the house when there is a safe, convenient and cost effective (FREE) disposal alternative right here in the tri-county.

What residents say about the Hazardous Waste Centers:

“Fast!”

“I like the drive-thru service.”

“Quick, efficient, courteous.”

The Hazardous Waste Center and Collection Events

What We Accept at the Hazardous Waste Center and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Sponsored by TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program, These collections are FREE to households, small businesses and agricultural producers in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties

Do bring:

- Products with labels with the words “caution” “warning” “danger” “poison”
- Paints and stains
- Septic field/drain cleaners, oven cleaners
- Gasoline, kerosene and other fuels
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons for home use
- Antifreeze and other automotive fluids
- Thinners and solvents
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Aerosol spray products
- Propane tanks or bottles from barbeque grills
- Fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Thermostats and thermometers
- Fire extinguishers
- Household batteries like rechargeable, lithium, ni-cad (not alkaline or lead-acid)

Do NOT bring:

- Motor oil (it can be recycled locally)
- Car batteries (can be recycled locally)
- Explosives, ammunition, asbestos, medicines (not accepted at this time)

When transporting: keep products sealed in original containers if possible, and transport in a box or tub in your trunk or in the truck bed. Follow the signage to the collection area. Thank you!

Hazardous Waste Centers are located at:

The Dalles Disposal Service, 1317 W First Street, The Dalles

Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River

TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program also conducts satellite events throughout the year in the smaller communities throughout Wasco, Sherman and Hood River counties.

Check our current schedule for collections at www.tricountyrecycle.com under Hazardous Waste.

In the Event of a Spill or Leak

If anyone is hurt, or if the spill is large and you cannot safely clean it up, call 911 immediately!

In the event of a spill or leak:

- Keep children and pets away.
- Extinguish flames. Extinguish any open flame or heat source.
- Keep the area well ventilated (open windows).
- Read the product label for information on how to handle a spill.
- Put on the recommended safety gear. You will probably need to wear gloves, goggles, and long sleeves and pants.
- Stop the product from spreading by covering the spill with absorbent material (kitty litter, sand, disposable diapers, soil). Don't vacuum up a spill or try to wash it down any drain.
- Sweep and scoop the absorbent into a container with a lid or into a strong plastic bag. Clean the area with soap and rags (put used rags into the container as well). Be careful not to wash hazardous materials into the street gutter.
- Label the container with the product name, chemical name, and hazard category (flammable, corrosive, etc.) All this information should be available on the product's label.
- Dispose of the container as hazardous waste at the Hazardous Waste Center or at a collection event. See the Disposal section (Page 15).

Break a Fluorescent light bulb

These contain a small amount of mercury vapor. Scoop up the glass and all other pieces of broken light bulb. Use gloves to protect against cuts. Put all the pieces of the broken bulb into a rigid container such as an old paint can. Seal the container with a lid and remove it from your living area. Air out the room where the lamp was broken for 12-24 hours.

Prepare yourself in advance for spills and splashes:

- Have cleanup supplies nearby, and know how to use them.
- Call for help sooner rather than later.
- Any towels, rags, or sponges that you use to cleanup a hazardous product become contaminated and must themselves be disposed of as hazardous wastes.

Accidental Exposure

For an immediate medical emergency call 911.

Call Oregon Poison Control at (800) 222-1222. *Have the container with you when you make the call to help in the identification.* The first aid remedies on product labels can be incorrect especially on older products so be sure to call the Poison Center for advice. The following are general first aid recommendations. If a doctor or Poison Control recommend other actions, follow their advice.

EYES

- Rinse eye immediately and remove contact lenses, if any.
- Flush eye with water for 15 minutes.
- Water should be lukewarm and should run across the contaminated eye.
- Blink contaminated eye while flushing and do not force the eyelid open.

SWALLOWED

- Call 911 immediately if victim has difficulty breathing or is unconscious.
- Call Poison Control immediately or a doctor for instructions.
- If substance swallowed is a medication **do not** take anything by mouth unless instructed by a medical professional.
- Keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand, and use if a doctor or Poison Control advises.

INHALED

- Immediately move to fresh air, open doors and windows.
- Call Poison Control or emergency 911 if needed.

SKIN

- Remove contaminated clothing and flood the skin with water for 10 minutes. Then wash skin gently with soap and water and rinse.
- Separate contaminated clothing from other laundry before washing.

Think about what you'd do in the event of an accident before you use a hazardous product!

Resources

Local environmental information:

**Environmental Health, North Central Public Health District
(Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam Counties):** (541) 506-2626
www.wshd.org

Environmental Health, Hood River Public Health Department: (541) 387-6885
www.co.hood-river.or.us

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Department: (541) 298-7255
www.deq.state.or.us

Local plant pest and disease control information:

OSU Extension Service

Sherman County: (541) 565-3230 or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sherman/>

Wasco County: (541) 296-5494 or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco>

Hood River County: (541) 386-3343 or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver>

Local garbage service and recycling centers:

The Dalles Disposal Service: 1317 W First Street, The Dalles (541) 298-5149
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Hood River Gragbage Service: 3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River (541) 386-2272
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Mel's Sanitary Service Inc: 57590 Yew Drive, Tygh Valley (541) 483-2500
Mon-Fri 8am-2pm

A&P Recycling: Weber Street, The Dalles (541) 296-3056
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 8am-2pm

Glossary

Absorption: the uptake of substances by the skin, respiratory and gastrointestinal tract. Also refers to the uptake of substances by plant parts or organs.

Acute: One-time or short-term exposure; used to describe brief exposure; used to describe brief exposures and effects that appear promptly after exposure.

Acute toxicity: the rapid onset of an adverse effect from a single exposure. . Acute toxicity of a compound is not an indicator of its chronic (long-term) effects.

Adequate ventilation: At least two open windows with a fan placed in one of them, the air stream of the fan directed outward. One open door or window or a kitchen or bathroom exhaust fan does not create adequate ventilation.

Aerosol: A small particle or liquid suspended in a gas.

Aerosol product: A pressurized, self-dispensing product form used for a wide variety of chemical specialty products.

Air pollutant: Any substance in air that could, in high enough concentration, interfere with human health or welfare, or harm animals, vegetation or material.

Borax: Also called sodium borate. Hard, odorless crystals, granules or crystal powder. Moderately toxic.

Carcinogen: A substance or agent capable of producing cancer in living animal tissue.

Caustic: A chemical that will burn skin on contact (corrosive effect on living tissue).
Chemical sensitivity: Health problems characterized by effects such as dizziness, eye and throat irritation, chest tightness, and nasal congestion that appear whenever an individual is exposed to certain chemicals, even in small amounts.

Chronic: Occurring over a long period of time, either continuously or intermittently; used to describe ongoing exposures and effects that develop only after a long exposure.

Chronic toxicity: The slow or delayed onset of an adverse effect, usually from multiple, long-term exposures. Chronic toxicity of a compound is not an indicator of its acute effects.

Corrosive: Having the power to slowly dissolve. Example: some pesticides dissolve rubber hoses, nozzles and other parts of spray machinery

Combustible: Substance that can easily be set on fire and that will burn readily or quickly. Flammable.

Cumulative: Often the effect of repeated exposures to chemicals is greater than single exposures. The cumulative effect is what occurs from repeated exposures over time.

Desiccant: A substance that induces drying by absorbing water.

Dose: The quantity of chemical administered at one time.

Dusts: Formed when solid materials are broken into small particles.

Exposure: Contact of an organism with a chemical, physical or geological agent.

Flammable: Substance that can be easily set on fire and that will burn readily or quickly.

Fumes: Small particles created in high heat operations such as welding or soldering that become airborne when exposure to heat. Fume particles are very small and tend to remain airborne for long periods of time. Metals, some organic chemicals, plastics and silica can produce fume particles.

Gases: Substances that become airborne at room temperature. They may or may not mix with air.

Hazard: The potential that the use of a product will result in an adverse effect on a person or the environment.

Ignitable: Substance capable of being set on fire.

Glossary

Inert ingredient: A substance contained in a product that will, by itself, not add materially to the effectiveness of the product. Many inert ingredients are hazardous.

Ingestion: When a substance is taken into the body by swallowing.

Inhale: To take into the lungs by breathing.

Irritant: An agent that produces chafing, soreness or inflammation, especially to the skin.

Mists (aerosol): Tiny liquid droplets in the air. Any liquid, water, oil or solvent can be in a mist or aerosol form.

Mucous membranes: The tissue that forms the lining of the body cavities, such as nose and mouth.

Organic solvents: A solvent is any liquid that will dissolve another substance to form a solution. Solvents that contain carbon are known as organic solvents. Organic solvents may be toxic and many are flammable.

Pesticide: A chemical or biological agent that kills pests. A pest can be an animal, fungi, insect, plant or any unwanted species.

Petroleum distillates: Mixtures of chemical compounds derived from the distillation of petroleum. Most are highly toxic if ingested.

Pine oil: Derived from steam distillation of wood from pine trees. Used in many household disinfectants and deodorants. Skin irritant and may cause allergic reactions, central nervous system damage in concentrated form.

Poison: Any toxic substance that upsets normal functions in a living organism by surface absorption, injection or ingestion, eventually leading to death if the dosage is sufficiently strong.

Radioactive: Substance capable of giving off radiant energy in the form of particles or rays by the spontaneous disintegration of atomic nuclei.

Reactivity: Tendency of a substance to undergo chemical change. May occur when exposed to other substances, heat, sudden shock or pressure.

Repellent: A chemical or biological agent that makes unattractive to pests a habitat, food source or other site ordinarily sought and frequented.

Respiratory system: Generally the nose, nasal passages and lungs.

Risk: The probability of injury, disease or death under specific circumstances.

Silica gel: Precipitated silicic acid in the form of lustrous granules, especially prepared for the absorption of various vapors. Mildly toxic.

Smoke: Formed from burning organic matter. Contains a mixture of many gases, particulates, vapors and fumes.

Solvent: A liquid that will dissolve a substance, forming a solution. See "Organic Solvents" listing.

Toxic: Harmful or poisonous.
Vapors: The gaseous form of any substance that is usually a liquid or a solid. Most liquids vaporize continually. The rate of evaporation increases as the temperature rises. Vapors are easily inhaled.

Volatile: A substance that evaporates quickly, such as alcohol.

Volatile organic compound (VOC): Certain chemicals that readily volatilize into the air and may cause both indoor and outdoor air pollution problems. Petrochemicals that give off gases at room temperature.

Well-ventilated area: Is either outdoors or if indoors, an area with at least three of more open doors or windows with a fan placed in one of them. The air stream of the fan is directed outward. One open door or window, or a kitchen or bathroom exhaust fan, does not create a well-ventilated area.

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Emergency Contacts

Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies - 911

Oregon Poison Control - (800) 222-1222

For more information contact **541-506-2636**
or visit **www.tricountyrecycle.com**

TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program

Office located at 419 E. Seventh Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Hazardous Waste Centers located at:

The Dalles Disposal, 1317 W. First Street, The Dalles

Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River

Tri-County
Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program

