

Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Shed

What are household hazardous wastes?



Hazardous household products have the potential to harm our subsistence foods, our people, and our environment. Hazardous products are in our Villages because we purchase them from our stores, or we bring them from hub cities. We use them for cleaning countertops, stripping and painting our boats, and lubing our 4-wheelers. Every day, people in your Village are likely using hazardous household products.

Household hazardous are a problem because they can be harmful when they are used, and when they are *not* used - when they are thrown out. If you decide to discard a household hazardous *product* or material, it is called a "household hazardous *waste*".

Any waste is named "hazardous" by the U.S. EPA if it:

- ✓ Can burn or flame up easily,
- ✓ Corrode (like a battery) or irritate the skin,
- ✓ Has the potential to generate heat or explode, or
- ✓ Is poisonous to humans and animals.



Remember, your Village can still decide how to define hazardous wastes for your community. For example, plastics and e-wastes can be very hazardous if they are burned in a burn box, barrel, or on the ground. If a computer is left in an open dump and subject to flooding, some very toxic metals will eventually seep into the water. But these wastes are not listed as "hazardous wastes". The reason is that waste burning and unlined dumps are not allowed in Lower -48 or Alaska cities.

What are examples of household hazardous wastes?

There are several different kinds of hazardous products out there, but many of them fit into these general categories:

- ✚ **Household cleaners** — examples include: bleach, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, bathroom cleaner.
- ✚ **Automotive products** — examples include: gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, lead-acid batteries, brake fluid, transmission fluid.
- ✚ **Home improvement products** — Examples: paint, paint thinner, paint stripper, adhesives, varnish.
- ✚ **Pesticides** — examples include: rat and mouse poison, pet spray, flea collars, mothballs, insecticide, weed killer.



- Other — examples include: household batteries, shoe polish, lighter fluid, prescription medicines, arts and crafts materials.

Where are household hazardous wastes and what are their harmful effects?

There is a great interactive "house tour" on EPA's site that you can use to educate yourself and your community on how to find household hazardous wastes. Go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/tour.htm#view>

How can you tell if a product is hazardous?

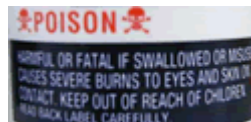
Products containing hazardous substances are required by federal law to be properly labeled. Labels on hazardous products use a rating system of four "signal" words. These words are listed below from "most hazardous" to "least hazardous".



EPA's Virtual Home tour. Click on the house.

Signal Words

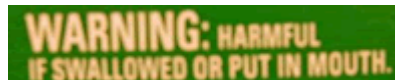
POISON



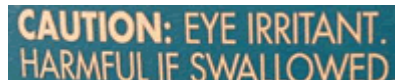
DANGER



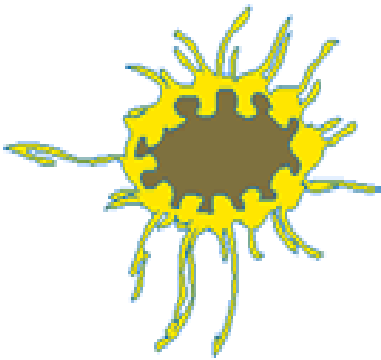
WARNING



CAUTION



These signal words are often followed by advice to take precautions such as "Keep out of reach of children."



- Poison** is the highest hazard level of the group. Poison means that a product is highly toxic. It can cause injury or death if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin.
- Danger** means that a product is *highly* toxic, or flammable, or corrosive.
- Warning** and **Caution** mean that a product is toxic, corrosive, reactive or flammable (but not as highly as for "danger").

Discarding Hazardous Products in a Village

For some of us, there are a lot of good things about living in a Village (e.g. our community!) and some bad things about living in a Village (honeybuckets for some of us). Mainly, it is different from living anywhere else, and working with household hazardous wastes is no exception. **Here is why:**

Good News!
Good News!

The **good news** is that we live healthfully through **subsistence** on our lands and waters. Even when our foods have tested positive for some contamination, the contamination is much less than in the store-bought fish and meats that 'non-subsistence people' have to eat. We are lucky. We have a saying in Southeast 'When the tide's out, the table is set'.

'Not so good' News
Not so good News

The **not-so-good news** is that our dumps and sewage/honeybucket lagoons are often unlined, leaking, flooding, or sitting in or next to our lands and waters. Some of us have dumps and lagoons that meet *all* of these descriptions. In Anchorage, when folks throw out their hazardous wastes in the garbage, or pour them down the sink, the chemicals will end up in their lined Class 1 landfill. Or they will get diluted in their lined, advanced waste water treatment system. Not much of the waste will end up in the Anchorage environment. But in many of our Villages, that waste *does* end up in our environment.



For example: If we follow the disposal instructions for spray paint—"roll up the can in newspaper and discard in the trash" -- the spray can gets taken with our trash to our open, unlined dump. When the can rusts out, or is crushed by an ATV, snowmachine, or heavy equipment, the leftover toxic paint will leak. After that, the chemicals can be carried by flooding or snowmelt to the ground or river.

**Good News
Again!**
Good News

But the **good news** is **subsistence** again. Because, unlike people in Anchorage (and almost everywhere else in the world), we can control what goes into our local environment. That means we can control what community hazardous wastes get into our food. All we need to do is change our community's hazardous waste habits.

Break the Connection!

Hazardous wastes connect to subsistence by getting into our dump and sewage systems. We can break the connection by reducing, reusing, safely storing, or backhauling them instead.

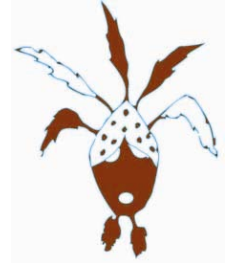
If we help our communities break the connection, we protect our subsistence.

Starting A Community Household Hazardous Waste Program

Are you interested in setting up program to gather the household hazardous wastes generated in your community? If so, follow these steps....

1 Educate Your Community and Reduce Hazardous Wastes

The most important step in a hazardous waste program is to educate your community. It is important to inform people of the dangers associated with hazardous wastes, and the need to dispose of the wastes properly. **If you have an open dump, use honeybuckets, or have a sewage pond that floods or seeps: Be sure that your community knows that following disposal instructions on the label may not work very well.**



- ◆ Do the "home tour" with them at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/tour.htm#view> -- this will show them the types of products in their house.
- ◆ A fancier version that includes other healthy home information is at : <http://www.webmd.com/health-ehome-9/default.htm#nav>
- ◆ Take your community on a tour of your Reuse Shed/Center. Make a fun celebration day out of it.

2 Set Up A Reuse/Exchange Center For Household Hazardous Wastes

Reuse centers are a place to drop-off household hazardous products (and any other materials) that aren't being used. Other people pick up products that they need. Examples of items typically found at reuse/exchange centers are paint, partially used household cleaners, ant spray, art and hobby supplies...just to name a few.



Example of a HHW reuse center
Photo source: Municipality of Anchorage
www.muni.org/sws/hazardouswaste.cfm

Some communities choose to have reuse/drop-off centers that are open every day. Other communities choose to have monthly or annual drop-off/pick-up days. They plan a big event for everyone to bring their hazardous wastes. Still others might offer a house-to-house collection once per month.

Whether you decide to set up a reuse/drop-off center or hold a collection day, the hazardous products should be securely stored so they cannot be reached easily by children. The reuse center can be simple or fancy, depending on your budget. A used Connex works well. **For information about**

selecting a good storage/collection center and to see examples, go to

<http://zendergroup.org/docs/storing%20print.pdf> .



Your HHW *reuse* center can be operated like a store where everything is free. So, if it is possible, it should be a different place from your regular hazardous waste storage area. A hazardous waste storage area is for storing wastes like lead-acid batteries, used oil, and used antifreeze safely away from the public. If it's not possible to have separate buildings, make sure that these wastes are stored in lidded containers, or blocked off from where kids can get into them.

Pick a good location in your community that is convenient for people to take their household hazardous wastes. This could be a central place in your community where access is easy. Your dump/landfill can be one of the best places if it is staffed and fenced off during closed hours.

Location, Location, Location

Business Wastes

Be careful that outside (or inside) businesses do not take advantage. Hazardous wastes in bigger quantities are supposed to be disposed at a certified landfill Down South. These certified landfills or treatment centers are very expensive. One Village had a household hazardous waste collection day, and an unknown business dropped off many 55-gal drums of unknown contents. It took a lot of phone calling and fund-seeking to get rid of the drums. Hazardous wastes from even small businesses are not technically "household hazardous wastes". If you accept them for your reuse center, be sure to accept only quantities and sizes that are typical for households. Consider charging for larger quantities or have them store the materials (safely) at their business. You can help them advertise to the community that the reusable product is available.

Ideally, it is great to have someone **staff the reuse center**, especially in the beginning when it starts off. Staff can help explain how it works. If you're not able to staff the center, try big signs that explain what people need to do. Hold a grand opening day and give a tour.



Here are a few more suggestions for operating your reuse center:



Keep a list of items that are dropped off, as well as the person's name and the date, in case you have a question later about what they brought. We included an example at the end of this handout.



When people bring products, make sure you can clearly read the label of what the product is. If the label on the product is hard to read, write the name in big letters with a permanent marker.



Mark the drop-off date on the product if you can't find an original date on it.



Post a sign at the reuse center listing items that you do accept or items that you don't accept (and an alternative of what to do with them).



You might choose to not allow businesses to drop off wastes at your center. If you are concerned that they may try anyway, you can ask people to sign and date a waiver when

they drop-off products. The waiver could say something like "I certify that this household product is from my household, and not generated at a business."



Have a spill kit located in your shed, or next to it. The kit should contain items such as absorbents, booms, and safety gear. A number of companies sell these or will make a customized kit just for you. See the safety gear factsheet for contacts.



Lock the Center when it is not staffed, or at least when there is not someone close on-call.



Purchase a first-aid kit and mount it to the wall, or have it handy.



Have folks sign out for the items they are taking. There is an example at the end.



Make sure you have an inventory handy. You can use your sign-in sheet and cross out the products that were taken.



Consider whether you want to have a liability release form. There is an example at the end of this handout—what is used in Anchorage. For a small community where folks know and trust each other, it might not be worth it. If you have good control of what comes in and the condition it is stored in, it is similar to operating a store. It is up to your tribe/city to decide.



Regardless of whether you have a liability release form, make sure your community is informed of the proper way to use and store hazardous products. There is an example educational flyers/handouts at the end of the document.



Store products in the best layout you can think of for your community. And segregate wastes that should be kept separate. **Read and follow all the storage tips in the educational flyer at the end of this document.** Separate shelves or segregated areas can work well.

Once your reuse center is set up, place signs up around the community and at the dump/landfill letting people know:

- ◆ What kind of hazardous wastes are being collected,
- ◆ Where (and when) they should take their hazardous wastes, and
- ◆ The importance of not dumping hazardous wastes on the ground, in trash can that ends up in your open dump, or in a pipe that empties to waterways.



To see an example of an educational flyer, see the end of this document.

3 Recycle/ship out/dispose of remaining hazardous wastes

If you have any remaining hazardous wastes that can't be reused, here are some suggestions:



Recycle/dispose properly

For information about how to recycle/dispose of different types of hazardous wastes including used oil, antifreeze, etc., go to Earth911.com, look up the or call 277-2111 if you can't find what you are looking for.



Ship hazardous wastes out of your community

For information about how to ship out hazardous wastes, go to <http://zendergroup.org/backhaul.html> or call us at 277-2111 if you can't find what you are looking for.

For products that don't seem to be picked up by anyone and you just want them out of your community, you can send them all in a tote (or other suitable container) to companies that accept and process hazardous wastes. Emerald Services in Palmer (www.emeraldnw.com), and PSC Environmental Services (<http://www.pscnow.com/>) and Environmental Compliance Consultants (ECC), <http://www.eccalaska.com/>, in Anchorage are Alaska companies that do this. An example inventory sheet, courtesy of Emerald, to send with your items is attached. Note - if you are going to ship a variety of household hazardous products, you should call first to make sure you package and ship correctly.

An alternative is to contract a company to come to your village and process and package unused hazardous products. You can read our Drum Testing section in our "Drums" document at <http://zendergroup.org/drum.html> to see companies that will come into your village to help you with your hazardous wastes and products. If you cannot identify the product (e.g. no label), there are methods for determining what you have so it can be safely shipped.

Cleaning up spills and safety gear

If you have a hazardous waste spill in your shed or community:

Remove children and pets from the area where the spill occurred.

Mark off the area so people don't come into contact with the spill.

Ventilate the area if the spill happened inside. But only enter the area without a mask if you know for certain what you are dealing with. Larger spills of some chemicals must only be handled by trained personnel. Some chemical fumes can kill.

Wear appropriate safety equipment when cleaning up or assessing the spill.

Contain the spill by soaking it up with absorbents (you can purchase absorbent pads or use clay-based kitty litter)

Put the absorbed material into a plastic bucket or drum. Label it with the date and

what's in it.

See Safety Gear fact sheet at http://zendergroup.org/docs/Safety_gear.pdf for places where you can purchase spill clean-up products

If you have a significant spill, contact ADEC's Spill Response Program. They can help you address the spill and help you fill out any needed forms.

During normal business hours call the Area Response Team Office or fax a completed spill report form to the nearest DEC Area Response Team Office.

Outside normal business hours call: 1-800-478-9300 (International: 1-907-428-7200)



Area	Phone	FAX
Central (Anchorage)	269-3063	269-7648
Northern (Fairbanks)	451-2121	451-2362
Southeast (Juneau)	465-5340	465-2237

Always use appropriate safety gear when using hazardous products. See http://zendergroup.org/docs/Safety_gear.pdf .

Tour of a household hazardous waste collection center

In February 2004 during the Forum conference, we arranged a tour of the Midtown Anchorage Household Hazardous Waste Center. Follow along after the resource section and learn some additional tips for setting up!



Resources

You may also be able to obtain a printed copy of EPA documents if you call the RCRA Information Hotline at: 1 (800) 424-9346

- [Household Hazardous Waste Management: A Manual for One-Day Community Collection Programs.](http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserves/materials/pubs/manual/index.htm)
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserves/materials/pubs/manual/index.htm>
- Household Hazardous Waste: Steps to Safe Management. April 1993. EPA 530-F-92-031.
http://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/epa_house_haz_waste.pdf

Also, the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) has a great household hazardous waste guide in their Integrated Waste Management Planning Resource Guide which can be viewed in Appendix 3 at this link: <http://zendergroup.org/anthc.htm> .

Contacts and Phone Numbers

The State of Alaska does not have a hazardous waste program. For Hazardous Waste information in Alaska, call EPA Region 10 Hazardous Waste Hotline staff person, Xiang-Yu Ge (pronounced Shawn-U G) at 206-553-2859 during EPA business hours (7 am-4 pm Alaska Time Monday-Friday) or leave a voicemail message and your call will be returned.

Call the **RCRA Hotline** at 1-800-424-9346. The hotline is only open from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Alaska time), Monday through Thursday. However, the operators are very helpful. You can also find the information online at www.Epa.gov/RCRAonline.

Emergencies

For emergencies with household hazardous wastes call 911 or the Poison Control Center in Alaska at 1 (800) 222 1222.



How can I get additional information about hazardous waste?

- 1) For an A-Z list of hazardous waste products and what to do with them see the Alaska Village Hazardous Waste Guide at : <http://zendergroup.org/haz.htm>
- 2) Visit other hazardous waste websites below:
 - EPA Region 7: Household Waste
http://www.epa.gov/region7/waste/solidwaste/household_hzd_waste.htm
 - EPA Region 3: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/solidwasteinhousehold.htm>



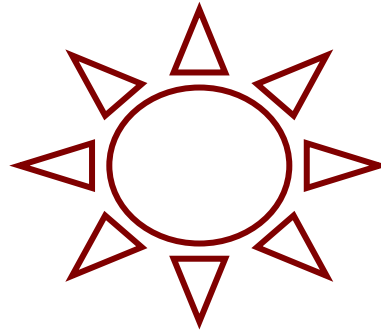
Sample Forms and Reuse Shed Tour at End of Document

After the Anchorage Mid-Town Reuse Shed tour, these forms are attached:

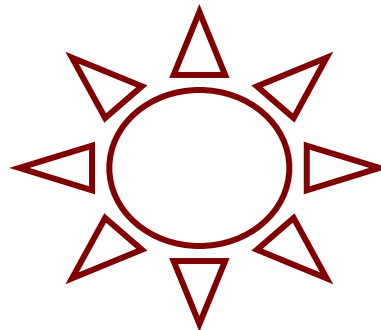
1. Example Sign-In Sheet for Folks Who Drop Off Items
2. Example Sign-out Sheet (Courtesy Emerald Services, Palmer AK)
3. Example Liability Release Form (Courtesy Emerald Services, Palmer AK)
4. Example Informational Flyer/Brochure
5. Using and Storing HHW: Example Poster/Factsheet.



The front of the Anchorage Hazardous Waste Center



The household hazardous waste reuse center is located in a used Connex container. Shelving was put up, lighting installed, and a small office in the back was set up. It is just like a regular hardware store. Here we are-- looking at the different products available to anyone who wants them (for free!).





The staff person showed us the safety gear they had on hand in case of a spill. The photos above are Marvin Ramoth and Ben Davis from the Native Village of Selawik demonstrating the use of a Tyvek suit to wear when cleaning up spills. The other types of safety gear the Center had ready to use were gloves, goggles, and absorbents (kitty litter and pads) to clean up any spills.



The Center also had hazardous waste safety, identification, and emergency information sheets posted. These sheets can be purchased for under \$20 at Alaska Safety in Anchorage (907) www.alaskasafety.com , 561-5661 .



Native Village of Raven Hazardous Waste Reuse Program

Participant Material Acceptance Form

Number of Containers	Volume of Containers (ounces)	Total Volume Reused (pounds)	Description of Material (common name)	Manufacturer of Material	Category of Material (Ignitable, Corrosive, Poison, Explosive)

Participant Name (print):					
Participant Signature:					
Date:					

Staff Signature:			
Date:			
Time:			

NATIVE VILLAGE OF RAVEN
HAZARDOUS WASTE REUSE PROGRAM
PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

This Is An Important Legal Document. By Signing This Document, You May Give Up Rights That You Would Otherwise Have And Subject Yourself To Liability For Injuries To Others. Please read This Document Fully And Carefully Before Signing It.

The **Native Village of Raven** ("NVR) collects and disposes of certain household hazardous materials when residents no longer have use for the products. Some of the collected products are made available for reuse.

NVR has not thoroughly characterized the hazardous materials. **NVR** does not and cannot guarantee that material inside the container(s) matches the labeling of the container(s) or the shape of such container(s). **NVR** does not make any express or implied representations, guarantees or warranties concerning:

- The physical or chemical characteristics of the materials, including the purity, color, texture or age of the material;
- The manner in which the materials may be transported, stored, treated, discharged, disposed of, used, handled or otherwise managed; or
- Any actual or potential effects to property, human health and safety or the environment for the transportation, storage, treatment, discharge, disposal, use, misuse or other management of the materials.

Any and all other implied warranties are hereby disclaimed, including the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. By accepting hazardous materials from **NVR's** Hazardous Waste Reuse Program, the undersigned agrees to be responsible to transport, store, treat, process, emit, discharge, dispose, use, handle or otherwise manage the material in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal law.

The undersigned understands that the materials may not conform to any label attached to the product and agrees to accept all risk associated with the product.

PROSPECTIVE RELEASE OF LIABILITY. THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO FOREVER RELEASE, DISHARGE, AND WAIVE THE RIGHT TO ASSERT PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE CLAIMS AGAINST **NVR** FOR ANY AND ALL INJURIES OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, EMOTIONAL DISTRESS OR ENVIRONMENTAL HARM WHENEVER AND WHEREVER ARISING, WHICH RESULTS OR ALLEGEDLY RESULTS FROM OR WHICH IS CONNECTED IN ANY WAY TO MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE MATERIALS, OR TO ITS TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, USE, MISUSE, DISPOSAL OR OTHER MANAGEMENT. THIS PROSPECTIVE RELEASE OF LIABILITY INCLUDES THE RELEASE OF CLAIMS ARISING OR ALLEGEDLY ARISING, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER MISCONDUCT OF **NVR**.

HOLD HARMELSS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT. THE UNDERSIGNED FURTHER AGREES TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS **NVR**, IT'S RESPECTIVE AGENCIES, OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS AND INSURERS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY (INCLUDING LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH), DAMAGES, COSTS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND EXPENSES OF WHATEVER TYPE OR NATURE, INCLUDING A TORNEY'S FEES, WHICH ARE CAUSED OR ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY OR CONNNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE MATERIALS, INCLUDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MATERIALS AND ITS TRASPORTATION, STORAGE, USE, MISUSE, DISPOSAL OR OTHER MANAGEMENT. THIS HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT INCLUDES ALL CLAIMS ARISING OR ALLEGEDLY ARISING, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER MISCONDUCT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR CONTRACTOR.

The undersigned certifies that he or she has read and fully understands this Participant Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement, and, in consideration for the receipt of materials from **NVR** Hazardous Waste Reuse Program, agrees to all of its terms.

Date

Address

Name (Please Print)

City/Zip

Signature

Phone Number

Raven Household Hazardous Product Program

Protect Our Subsistence. Household hazardous waste should not be disposed in the trash!

There are many items that are considered household hazardous products. Any products with these words on the label are hazardous and harmful to our community and subsistence: on product labels such as **poison, danger, warning and caution**. When disposed of improperly, these wastes can do serious damage.

Do you have leftovers or unopened containers of any the following products? Bring them to our Reuse Center to share with others! Are you looking for any of the following? Visit our Center and get the product for FREE!



Many items can be dropped off and may be available for reuse, including:

- Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Stain
- Household Cleaners
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Unused Oil
- Unused Antifreeze
- Automotive Products
- Over-the Counter Medicines

Disposal Information

Bring household hazardous products to the Raven Household Product Reuse Center located behind the Tribal Building.



Hours: Tuesdays from 8:00am - 4:00pm. **Phone:** 555-5555.

Will-Call: We will pick up products from Elders free-of-charge. Call the above phone number to make arrangements.

DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Reuse Center is for hazardous waste coming from households only – no businesses. Businesses can participate in our materials reuse program by listing their available products with our Tribal Environmental Program Materials Exchange Program. Please call 555-5555.



Additional requirements include:

- For Raven Community residents only.
- Bring products in their original containers.
- If the product label is missing, clearly list the contents on the container, if known.
- Transport hazardous waste in containers no larger than 5 gallons. Larger containers cannot be accepted.
- No explosives
- No bio-hazardous wastes (e.g. syringes, used bandages)

Important Tips when Using Household Hazardous Products

- ◆ Read and follow instructions on the product carefully.
- ◆ Don't mix products together.
- ◆ If you are pregnant, or someone in your house is pregnant, avoid hazardous products as much as possible.
- ◆ Keep hazardous products stored high, or in locked cupboards, away from small children.
- ◆ Use hazardous products in WELL VENTILATED AREAS. Open windows, use fans, and take plenty of fresh air breaks.
- ◆ Avoid eating, drinking, and smoking when using hazardous products. Some of the invisible chemical can get on food, drinks, and cigarettes. Then you will end up having the chemical for lunch. Smoking can be dangerous around flammable hazardous products.
- ◆ Avoid wearing soft contact lens when working with solvents and pesticides. They can absorb vapors from the air and hold the chemical against your eye.
- ◆ Use appropriate safety gear when using hazardous products. Go to http://zendergroup.org/docs/Safety_gear.pdf for information on hazardous waste safety gear and spill clean up products.



Important Tips when Storing Household Hazardous Products

- ◆ Make sure you tightly seal caps and lids on hazardous products.
- ◆ Never store hazardous products in food containers.
- ◆ Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers and never remove the labels. Corroding containers, however, should be repackaged and clearly labeled. Keep containers dry to prevent corrosion.
- ◆ Keep products out of the reach of children and animals.
- ◆ Keep products away from sources of heat, spark, flame, or ignition such as pilot lights, switches and motors. This is especially important with flammable products and aerosol cans.
- ◆ Store products that warn of vapors or fumes in a well-ventilated area.
- ◆ Store oxidizers, such as chlorine products (i.e. bleach) away from flammable products. And store flammable products (e.g. gasoline) away from fuel sources such as your stacks of recyclable cardboard.
- ◆ Store bleach and bleach-containing cleaners separate from ammonia and ammonia-based cleaners. When combined these products can react and cause an explosive toxic cloud.
- ◆ Consider creating a family symbol, such as an unhappy or scary face, that children can identify. Draw this symbol on each container.

