

# Hazardous Waste

Sometimes, products we purchase and use every day in our homes can harm us or the environment if they are not handled properly. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients that require special care during disposal or they can harm human health. Never pour hazardous waste down a storm drain, house drain, or on the ground.

To find out if a product you own is considered hazardous waste when discarded, check the label for the words below. Look for the *Safer Choice* label to find similar products that are not hazardous.

- ⚠ Warning
- ⚠ Caution
- ⚠ Flammable
- ⚠ Toxic
- ⚠ Poison
- ⚠ Corrosive
- ⚠ Oxidizer



# Do Your Part



Take all household hazardous waste to a county collection site for proper disposal.



# POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.



GREATER LANSING REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

# Household Hazardous Waste



For more information or to learn more about protecting our water, visit the link below or contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.



[mywatersheds.org](http://mywatersheds.org)  
[mywatersheds@mitcrpc.org](mailto:mywatersheds@mitcrpc.org)



TRI-COUNTY regional planning commission



[mywatersheds.org](http://mywatersheds.org)

# Effects of HHW

When not disposed of properly, household hazardous waste (HHW) can be dangerous to human health and the environment. If disposed of in the sink, storm drain, or on the ground, chemicals from HHW can contaminate water and harm fish and wildlife. One gallon of oil can contaminate up to one million gallons of fresh water!

If placed in the garbage, HHW can endanger our sanitation workers. Flammable or reactive chemicals can explode or release toxic fumes when released in the trash.

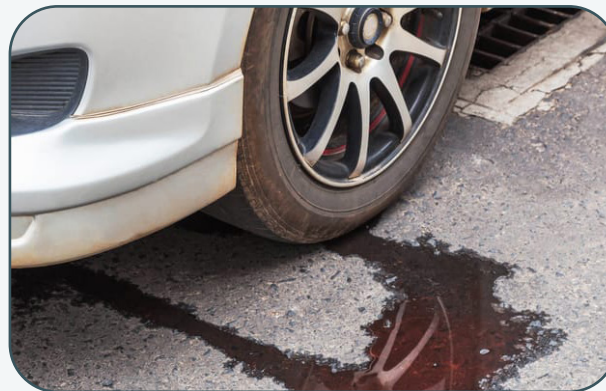
When disposed of improperly, hazardous wastes can be released into the environment, contaminating our air and water. If poured down toilets, HHW can contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems.

Safely dispose of household hazardous waste at county collection sites. To view events, visit [mywatersheds.org/events](http://mywatersheds.org/events).

# Automotive Maintenance



Americans spill over 200 million gallons of used oil each year. One pint of used motor oil can make a slick larger than a football field!



Our actions here at home affect the Great Lakes. When cars in Greater Lansing leak automotive fluid, those pollutants make their way to Lake Michigan! Protect the Great Lakes by checking for automotive fluids and fixing them promptly.

# Keep Oil Out of . . . Our Watershed: . . .



Never dispose of oil or other automotive fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or in a ditch.



Stop drips. Check for leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Keep your car tuned to reduce oil use.



If your vehicle has leaks or you are doing engine work, use ground cloths or drip pans beneath it. Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with tight-fitting lids and do not mix different engine fluids.



You can recycle used motor oil at auto parts stores and gas stations. For locations that accept used motor oil in the Greater Lansing region, visit [mywatersheds.org/wastedisposal](http://mywatersheds.org/wastedisposal).



Buy recycled (re-refined) motor oil to use in your car.

