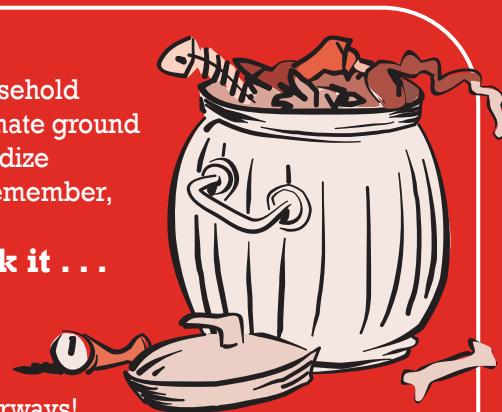


The improper disposal of household hazardous waste can contaminate ground and surface water, and jeopardize drinking water supplies. So remember,

**“If you wouldn’t drink it . . . Don’t dump it!”**

Properly dispose of it. Protect you, your family, and our waterways!



### IDENTIFICATION

☠ Read labels carefully, including precautionary handling statements.

☠ Learn to identify household hazardous waste. In general, hazardous materials are ignitable, reactive, corrosive, and/or toxic. Here are some items that may be in your home.

#### Household Products

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| asphalt or roofing tar | caulking or glue  |
| drain cleaners         | mercury (thermometers)  |
| mildew removers        | nickel cadmium batteries (used in cordless phones, camcorders, tools, etc.) |
| oil paints             | paint thinners & solvents   |
| photographic chemicals | varnishes and refinishers   |

#### Automotive Products

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| antifreeze     | batteries          |
| brake fluid    | cleaners           |
| degreasers     | engine cleaners    |
| motor oil      | petroleum products |
| starting fluid | transmission fluid |

#### Lawn and Garden Products

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| fertilizers               | fungicides   |
| herbicides (weed killers) | insecticides |
| pesticides                |              |

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL:

Lucas County Solid Waste Management District (419)213-2230  
 Wood County Solid Waste Management District (419)354-9297

Add up all the land that drains into the same waterway, and you have a watershed. Understanding how we impact our watershed is the first step toward protecting water quality.

**HOW DO POLLUTANTS GET INTO THE RIVER SYSTEM? UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS TOO EASY!**

Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and sprinklers moves over land to the nearest storm drain, ditch or creek. Pollutants “hitch a ride” on this water that is running off. From there, the polluted water enters area waterways like Swan Creek, Ottawa River, and the Maumee River, unfiltered and untreated. This runoff can cause a decline in water quality, harming the creatures living in and around the waterway. Contamination of surface and ground water also places our drinking water supplies at risk.

**TAKE ACTION! YOU CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY. IT’S EASY. . .**

- 💧 Pick a few of the simple steps recommended in this brochure. Try them for a few months. Remember, a few simple changes can make a big difference.
- 💧 Share this tip card with a friend or neighbor.
- 💧 Get involved in local environmental activities as a member or a volunteer. The Maumee RAP has been working to improve and protect our area waterways for over 20 years. To learn how you can support their efforts or get involved, visit [PartnersForCleanStreams.org](http://PartnersForCleanStreams.org)

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among Partners for Clean Streams (now supporting the Maumee RAP) and the following: Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419-241-9155)

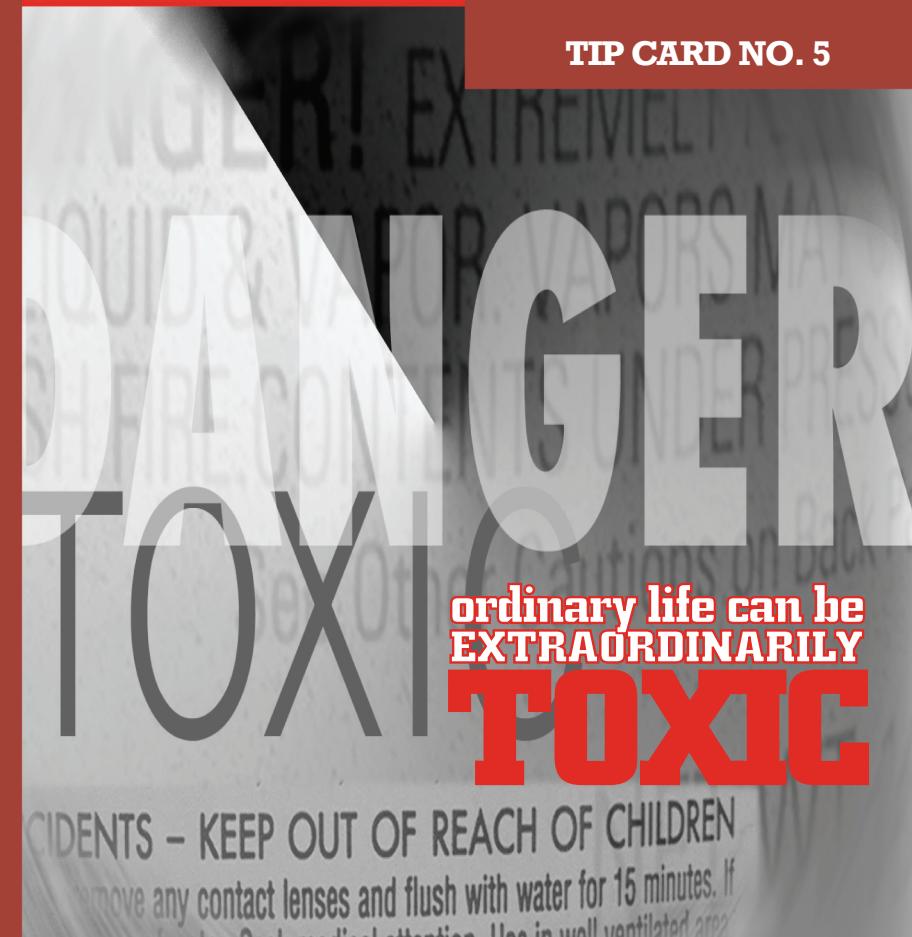
Lucas County (419-213-4500)  
 City of Oregon (419-698-7047)  
 Village of Holland (419-865-7104)  
 Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)  
 Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)  
 Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)  
 Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)  
 Township of Washington (419-726-6621)  
 Ohio Environmental Education Fund  
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources



City of Northwood (419-693-9327)  
 Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)  
 Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)  
 Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)  
 Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)  
 Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)  
 Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)  
 Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)  
 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
 United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Keep for future reference or recycle.

Partners for Clean Streams | P.O. Box 203 | Perrysburg, Ohio 43552 | Phone: 419-874-0727 | [PartnersForCleanStreams.org](http://PartnersForCleanStreams.org)



ordinary life can be  
**EXTRAORDINARILY TOXIC**

put hazardous waste where it belongs...



Find out how the proper disposal of certain household waste can make your home safer and protect our waterways.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERYDAY ITEMS IN OUR HOMES, SUCH AS PAINT, POLISHES, AND FERTILIZERS CAN BE HAZARDOUS?

### A FEW SIMPLE CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL PRACTICES WILL SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY, WHILE PROTECTING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS. . .

It's true! Items we use every day can be hazardous to all of us and our local waterways, if disposed of improperly. Dumping them down storm drains, sinks, toilets or putting them out with the trash can dramatically affect the health of our waterways and the animals living in and around them.



Activities such as home improvement projects, yard work, and automotive maintenance often require the use of hazardous materials. The type of products you select for your projects, and how you use them, can make a difference in your home and in the environment. Getting the job done right does not have to compromise your safety or your wallet.

### USAGE

- ☠ Carefully read and follow label directions. Do not over-apply household hazardous wastes of any kind. The likelihood of harming yourself, your family, and the environment can be greatly reduced by carefully following directions and minimizing the frequency and amount of applications.
- ☠ You can save time and money by planning your projects in advance and purchasing only the products you need to get the job done. You will also reduce unwanted household hazardous waste, helping to keep your home safe while protecting the environment.
- ☠ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean up spills. Washing toxics into the storm drain will send them untreated into the closest river, creek or ditch.

### STORAGE

- ☠ Try to buy only the quantity that you need. Don't purchase the jumbo-sized container to save money if you will not completely use the product in a timely manner. You will have the long term "cost" of proper household hazardous waste storage and disposal if you don't use it.
- ☠ Reduce the risk of children or pets coming into contact with toxic substances. Store household hazardous wastes in a cool, dry storage area in their original container, if possible. Clearly label containers and cover the labels with transparent tape to keep them from falling off or weathering.
- ☠ Solvents should be stored outside your home in a secure storage area, if possible. But read the label, some products must be protected from

freezing. Outdoor storage containers should be water-tight, rodent-proof, and protected from tampering. Protect products from freezing, when necessary.

### DISPOSAL

- ☠ Do not pour anything down a storm drain or into a ditch. Storm drains flow straight to local rivers, creeks, and ditches. Anything you put in them will flow directly to the waterway, untreated.
- ☠ Repair any automotive fluid leaks right away. Use a drip pan to catch leaks if repairs are delayed. Collect and properly dispose of fluids from routine automotive maintenance (i.e. motor oil, antifreeze, brake or transmission fluid).
- ☠ The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is not in the trash or down the drain. Contact your local jurisdiction or county Solid Waste Management District for information on the proper disposal locations and times in your area.
- ☠ Household hazardous wastes should not be put in the trash. Keep our landfills free of harmful substances. It is far cheaper to put household hazardous waste where it belongs than it is to clean up a landfill or waterway after they are contaminated.
- ☠ Do not pour household hazardous waste down household drains! The toxins could damage the sanitary sewer or septic system, costing you money.



Some facts and information from the Huron River Watershed Council.