

Household Chemicals

Many hazardous chemicals can also be found within your home. They can be dangerous if handled improperly. With just a little extra effort on your part, you can eliminate some of the chemical waste in your home.

If you want to *be a part of the solution and not the problem*, just try following these simple waste management suggestions.

Action

- Try reducing your usage of products such as pool chemicals, cleaners, solvents, paints, insecticides, detergents, and automotive products.
- Purchase less toxic products. Read the labels for information.
- Improper disposal such as dumping in sanitary sewers, storm drains, in your trash, and on land can cause damage to pipes, treatment plants, animals and groundwater.
- Remember: SPSA provides free disposal at their Household Hazardous Waste Collection facilities.
- Keep chemicals out of extreme temperatures and separate ones that might react with each other.



When used or disposed of improperly, household chemicals and the tough stuff they contain can damage our waterways! Please don't dump!!!



Dumping trash, household chemicals, and other toxic materials is illegal, and it's unsightly! Not only does it pose a risk for the environmental habitat, it is also harmful to humans.

Any Questions

Department of Public Utilities/Public Works
Division of Stormwater Management

www.portsmouthva.gov/publicworks/stormwater
757-393-8691

Southeastern Public Service Authority

www.spsa.com

757-424-4297

This is a public service message brought to you by the City of Portsmouth. As regulated by federal laws, the Stormwater Management Program must include public information strategies to encourage the prevention of storm drain pollution. For more brochures or information on this issue, please contact the Department of Public Utilities/Public Works, Division of Stormwater Management at 393-8691.

*Proper Waste Disposal
for a
Clean Environment*



Department of Public Utilities/Public Works
Division of Stormwater Management

Car Maintenance

Toxic chemicals that are discharged into the environment are harmful to humans, wildlife and plants. From the maintenance of your car to the upkeep of your home, these chemicals are often handled improperly.



Making sure that the oil is changed, antifreeze is checked, engine gets cleaned and paint gets waxed is essential if you want to keep an attractive, good

running car. Also essential, however, is remaining aware of the environmental hazards these products can have if carried down storm drains.

MOTOR OIL

Did you know?

- After changing your car's oil you can then recycle that oil to be used again.
- Oil poured into the streets or down drains goes directly to our waterways - untreated!
- Over 1 million gallons of oil is discharged each day into the environment through landfills, storm drains, or it is just poured on the ground. This can result in fish kills and contaminated drinking water.
- Just one quart of oil can pollute a **quarter million gallons of water!!**

Action

- Take all of your used motor oil to your nearest recycling center or service station. A list of local service stations can be obtained from the City's Stormwater Management Division or from the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA).
- Always use a drip pan while changing oil to avoid puddles or spills being washed down storm drains. If you do spill some, clean it up by pouring cat litter on it. Once absorbed, sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash can.
- Keep your car in good condition, and have it serviced regularly, thus reducing its oil usage.

ANTIFREEZE

The chemicals contained in antifreeze are poisonous to people, fish and wildlife. It is important to try to prevent these chemicals from entering our waterways.

Action

- Always use a drip pan when flushing out radiators and checking leaks.
- Take used antifreeze to a SPSA waste collection facility or local service station.



Antifreeze contains chemicals that are poisonous to animals and people. As little as one teaspoon can be deadly to a cat.

CAR CLEANERS

Some of the products you use to clean your car may be doing the exact opposite for the environment. Some contain chemicals that send harmful nutrients to our water supply. This can create algae blooms, which prevents the penetration of sunlight and deprives aquatic life of essential oxygen. The result: **DEAD FISH.**



Wash your car on the grass so the soapy, dirty water does not flow into the storm drainage system. This will help protect our area waterways like the Elizabeth River and Chesapeake Bay.

Action

- Wash your car on the grass. The soil will serve as a natural filter... or, use a commercial car wash.
- Wash and wax only when absolutely necessary.
- Use biodegradable, low or non-phosphate detergent.