






Residential Pollution Prevention		RHP-06 Household Hazardous Wastes
<p><i>No Symbol</i></p> <p><b>Symbol</b></p>	 	
<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p>Hazardous wastes exhibit one or more characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity which make it dangerous. When disposed of in the municipal solid waste stream or otherwise improperly managed, these materials have the potential of contaminating the ground water.</p> <p><b>Design</b></p> <p>A typical home contains many hazardous chemicals commonly used for cleaning, repairs, construction, automobile maintenance, lawn care, or hobbies. Often, household hazardous waste will accumulate on shelves in the garage or basement. The basic definition for a household hazardous substance is that it is toxic, poisonous, corrosive, chemically reactive, flammable or combustible. Some examples of household hazardous waste include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adhesives</li> <li>➤ Ammonia or bleach</li> <li>➤ Anti-freeze</li> <li>➤ Automotive fluids</li> <li>➤ Batteries</li> <li>➤ Cleaning fluids</li> <li>➤ Detergents</li> <li>➤ Disinfectants</li> <li>➤ Herbicides</li> </ul> <p>Due to poisons and toxic substances, household hazardous waste should not be included in the ordinary weekly garbage collection that is collected curbside. Contact the Warren County Solid Waste Coordinator for more information.</p>	



**Prohibition to Discharge**

Due to federal mandates, the City of Bowling Green has adopted a Stormwater and Street Ordinance to prohibit discharge of all chemicals and manmade materials into creeks, streams, ditches, swales, pipes, storm drains, and any surface that drains into these waterways. See BMP [RHP-01](#) (Non-Stormwater Discharges to Storm Drains) for a list of allowable discharges; anything else is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes all types of fluids, whether discharged directly into a stream or storm drain, or discharged indirectly upon the ground. In addition to fines and legal action from the City of Bowling Green, the state government Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) can also assess severe penalties for polluting waters of the state (defined as any blue-line stream on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle topographic map), which also includes sinkholes and known areas of groundwater recharge.

**Disposal Options**

A household hazardous waste is any substance that is toxic, poisonous, corrosive, chemically reactive, flammable or combustible. The typical home contains many hazardous chemicals commonly used for cleaning, repairs, construction, automobile maintenance, lawn care, or hobbies. Oftentimes, household hazardous waste will accumulate on shelves in the garage or basement. The following items are not accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center:

- Ammunition and explosives
- Medical waste
- Radioactive waste
- Unidentified materials

Whenever possible, purchase nontoxic and biodegradable products. Or use natural cleaning solutions such as vinegar or lye soap. Always follow the directions on the product label, and clean up any spills immediately. In general, do not purchase more of a hazardous product than can be reasonably used.

**Recycling**

Southern Recycling provides curbside recycling pickup in most areas. Participation in the recycling program is encouraged. Nearly 80% of all households participate in curbside recycling at least once per month. To receive more information about recycling check with the Warren County Solid Waste Coordinator.

**Related BMPs**

These BMPs have additional information about waste disposal and alternatives:

- [GHP-05](#) Spill Prevention and Control
- [RHP-01](#) Non-Stormwater Discharges to Storm Drains

**References**

- [www.bgky.org](http://www.bgky.org)
- The Bowling Green Stormwater Ordinance can be found at the following website: [www.bgky.org/publicworks/planningdesign/stormwater.htm](http://www.bgky.org/publicworks/planningdesign/stormwater.htm)