Household Hazardous Waste Emergency

Nearly every household uses products containing hazardous materials or chemicals. There are probably many hazardous materials in your home. Take a tour of your home to see where these materials are located. Once you have located a product, check the label and take the necessary steps to ensure that you are using, storing, and disposing of the material according to the manufacturer’s directions.

It is critical to store household chemicals in places where children cannot access them. Remember that products such as aerosol cans of hair spray and deodorant, nail polish and nail polish remover, toilet bowl cleaners, and furniture polishes all fall into the category of hazardous materials.

Hazardous Household Items

Cleaning Products
- Oven cleaners, drain cleaners, wood and metal cleaners and polishes, toilet cleaners, tub, tile, shower cleaners, bleach (laundry), and pool chemicals

Indoor Pesticides
- Ant sprays and baits, cockroach sprays and baits, flea repellents and shampoo, bug sprays, houseplant insecticides, moth repellents, mouse and rat poisons and baits

Automotive Products
- Motor oil, fuel additives, carburetor and fuel injection cleaners, air conditioning refrigerants, starter fluids, automotive batteries, transmission and brake fluid, and antifreeze

Workshop/Painting Supplies
- Adhesives and glues, furniture strippers, oil or enamel-based paint, stains and finishes, paint thinners and turpentine, paint strippers and removers, photographic chemicals, fixatives and other solvents

Lawn and Garden Products
- Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides/wood preservatives

Miscellaneous
- Batteries, Mercury thermostats or thermometers, and fluorescent light bulbs

Other Flammable Products
- Propane tanks and other compressed gas cylinders, kerosene, home heating oil, diesel fuel, gas/oil mix, and lighter fluid
Ideas for buying and storing hazardous household chemicals safely

Buy only as much of a chemical as you think you will use. Leftover material can be shared with neighbors or donated to a business, charity, or government agency.

Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers and never remove the labels unless the container is corroding. Corroding containers should be repackaged and clearly labeled.

Never store hazardous products in food containers.

Never mix household hazardous chemicals or waste with other products. Incompatibles, such as chlorine bleach and ammonia, may react, ignite, or explode.

TIPS

Dispose of hazardous materials correctly.

Take household hazardous waste to a local collection program.

Check with www.nmenv.state.nm.us/web or call 505-827-0197 to learn if there is a household hazardous waste collection program in your area.