Household Hazardous Waste – Preventing Water Pollution

KEEP THE STORM DRAINS CLEAN FOR THOSE DOWNSTREAM

Proper storage, material substitution, and minimizing the disposal of hazardous products can help protect water quality.

Many home products contain chemical ingredients that can harm people, streams, ponds, and rivers. Common household products such as oven cleaners, paint and paint removers, automobile fluids, pesticides, solvents, and drain cleaners should not be disposed of with regular garbage.

Household Hazardous Wastes and Water Quality

If this kind of waste is deposited in household garbage, the chemicals can damage landfill liners, and, in turn, leak into water-sources. Proper storage, material substitution, and minimizing the disposal of hazardous products can help protect water quality.

Proper Storage, Handling, and Disposal

- Tightly seal paint cans and store upside-down to allow a seal to form around the lid.
- Store pesticides in a separate, dry area in original, labeled containers.
- Do not flush hazardous items down the drain. This can damage home septic systems or wastewater treatment plants, and pollute surface and ground waters.
- Do not pour hazardous products on the ground or into gutters or storm drains. Storm gutters and storm drainage systems generally lead directly to local streams, rivers, and ponds.
- Recycle used oil filters at the AAFES auto service center or the Auto Craft Shop.
- Turn in household hazardous waste on special pickup days regularly scheduled by the installation environmental office.

Hazardous Product Minimizations

- Purchase only the amount necessary for the job at hand.
- Donate usable paint, solvents, automotive fluids, pesticides, fertilizers, and cleaning products for reuse.
- Use nontoxic (or less toxic) alternatives when possible.

Alternative Products

Many alternative products offer the same benefits as their toxic counterparts. Here are some suggestions:

- Clean ovens by applying table salt to spills and scrubbing with soda water.
- Make a nontoxic multipurpose cleaner by combining a cup of baking soda with a cup of white vinegar and a cup of ammonia in a gallon of warm water.
- Substitute propylene glycol antifreeze for ethylene glycol.

Contact the Fort Hood Environmental Division, (254) 287-6499.