Household Hazardous Waste and Your Future

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Introduction

- Examples of Hazardous Waste includes electronics such as cell phones, computers, toxic chemicals and cleaners.
- If you put Hazardous Waste into the garbage or recycling then the chemicals from the waste will seep in to our groundwater and eventually our drinking water.
- If you throw out paint cans, the poison in the paint will seep into the ground and will harm our soil and drinking water.

Facts on Hazardous Waste

- Hazardous wastes are poisonous byproducts of manufacturing, farming, and household cleaning products
- Other sources are construction, automotive garages, laboratories, and hospitals
- The may be liquid, solid, or sludge and contain cancer causing chemicals, heavy metals, radiation, dangerous waste pathogens, and other toxins

Facts on Hazardous Waste (cont'd)

- Even households generate hazardous waste from items such as:
 - batteries, used computers and cleaners
 - leftover paints or pesticides.
- The federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulates how hazardous waste must be handled and stored.



Facts on Hazardous Waste (cont'd)

- These substances not only pollute the air but they can also return to earth as precipitation, further polluting water and soil.
- Chemicals from hazardous wastes buried in unsecured landfills can leach out and move through the soil, eventually entering ground water.
- Storing old chemicals under your staircase can be a potential fire hazard and leaving chemicals in the garage can also be dangerous.

What Can You Do?

- If it is possible, try and use a non-hazardous alternative when cleaning such as Vinegar and Baking Soda, Borax, Lemon juice and certified Green cleaning products.
- If you do use a hazardous product such as paint, make sure to use all of it and not waste any.
- If you can't finish the product, then you could give it to someone else who needs it.
- Do not use Pesticides, fertilizers and other products that can run off lawns and gardens into storm drains and streams, polluting our fresh water.

What You Can Do

Take all Hazardous Waste to the Hazardous Waste Depot nearest you and save your future