

Protect Your Environment

Do Not

Dump on the ground, pour down drains or sewers, or place in the trash. Each of these actions has negative consequences:

Dumping on the ground releases hazardous chemicals directly into the environment; polluting land and water.

Pouring down drains and storm sewers has caused explosions in the sewer system; storm sewers typically empty directly into our lakes and streams, creating a path for hazardous chemicals to impact drinking water, recreation, and aquatic life.

Placing in the trash creates the opportunity for chemicals to mix. Chemical reactions can result in explosions, fires, and toxic fumes causing personal injury and damage to garbage trucks and equipment.



What are Household Hazardous Materials (HHMs)?

HHMs are common household materials or products that have one or more of the following characteristics: Toxic, Corrosive, Flammable or Reactive.

What are some common HHMs?

Products include, but are not limited to:

- Pesticides
- Oil-based paints, stains and varnishes
- Rechargeable batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes
- Caustic household cleaners
- Motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze
- Waxes and polishes
- Degreasers
- Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) found in larger computer monitors or televisions (not flat-screen, LCD, LED or Plasma)

Contact your local Solid Waste Agency or RCC to learn more about HHMs, or go to

www.iowadnr.gov/hhm



Consumer Information Brochure

Household Hazardous Materials

**Bring It In,
We All Win.**



www.iowadnr.gov/hhm

Household Hazardous Materials make our chores and projects easier, but they require special handling.

Read the Label

The label should tell you what the product is designed to do, how to use it, the risks you are exposed to, and what to do if there is an accident. Follow use, storage and disposal recommendations on the label.

How can I tell if a product is a HHM?

Product labels are required to list certain signal words to alert the consumer if a product is considered hazardous. Look for these signal words:

- **CAUTION**
- **DANGER**
- **WARNING**
- **POISON**



What can we do?

Use and Store Safely

Read the label to find out if the product is ready-to-use, or if it must be mixed with water. The label can also tell you how much product is needed to do the job, and how to safely store any leftovers.

Be prepared for emergencies: the label should say what to do if the product accidentally spills, is inhaled, comes in contact with eyes or skin, or is swallowed.

24-hour DNR Emergency Spill Response:
(515) 725-8694

Iowa Poison Control Center Hotline:
(800) 222-1222

Purchase Wisely

Look for “GREEN” alternatives. Manufacturers of HHM products are beginning to offer product lines that are made from natural ingredients to address the desires of their customers.

Purchase only what you need for the job and make sure to read the label for any recommended safety equipment like gloves, eye protection or mask.

Dispose of Properly

HHMs are not regular trash. Search for local take back options when recycling electronic waste or automotive products. Schedule an appointment at your local Regional Collection Center (RCC) to take your hazardous materials for proper disposal and recycling.

To find the location of your RCC contact your
local Solid Waste Agency or visit

www.iowadnr.gov/hhm