

Watching Your Waste  
January 2009

### **Resolving to Keep a Handle on Hazardous Waste**

This is the time of year for resolutions. For many of us, New Year's resolutions focus on some aspect of our personal health. We vow to eat better, to exercise or floss our teeth (one of my resolutions in past years). This year, why not make a resolution that could help your health and the environment? Many of us use products every day that if not handled properly could harm the health of people, animals and our planet. What are those products? All types of household hazardous waste. We can resolve to take responsibility for what happens to it once we decide to get rid of it.

Here are five things we can resolve to do to make a difference in the effects our hazardous waste has on us and the environment;

- Don't treat household hazardous waste like regular garbage. Your garbage is handled by a variety of people whose health could be put at risk if hazardous waste is disposed of in your regular garbage.
- Don't hide it. Pouring things down the drain, burying it or pouring it into the ground could cause potential health hazards in and around your home as well as contaminating our drinking water.
- Do dispose of hazardous materials at the OVWRC Hazardous Waste Depot. To make it easy, pick a date that you plan to take a trip to the depot. Perhaps on your birth date or the first of the month. Or, mark on your calendar the date, time and place of your community mobile hazardous waste collection event.
- Buy only what you need and when possible, choose alternative products that are less dangerous.
- Set aside and label containers to collect regular hazardous waste items such as one for batteries and one for compact fluorescent light bulbs.

This year resolve to do something that will protect you and your family's health both now and in the long term – keep a healthy handle on your household's hazardous waste.

Here is a list of household hazardous materials with the potential to do harm:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries (All Types)
- Bleach
- Cleaners
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Gasoline
- Medications
- Mercury thermometers
- Oil
- Paint
- Pool Chemicals
- Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides
- Propane tanks and cylinders
- Solvents
- Syringes

For more information on what hazardous waste items we accept and special packaging or size limits please visit [www.ovwrc.com](http://www.ovwrc.com).

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