

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services

Put hazardous waste in its place this summer!

Spending time outdoors or in the pool this summer? Whether we realize it or not, many of our summertime activities can contribute to pollution and landfill fires if we're not careful. One of the easiest ways to prevent this is by becoming hazardous waste aware.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can be found in every home and includes batteries, paints, cleaners, motor oil, gasoline, pool chemicals, propane cylinders, pesticides, fertilizers and more. These items should never be put in the garbage or your curbside recycling, nor should they be poured down the drain or into the natural environment. Improper disposal of HHW can pollute waterways, harm fish and potentially spark landfill fires – a big concern during these hot, dry summer months!

Here are five tips for safe use and disposal of hazardous waste:

1. **Reduce use of hazardous wastes.** Buy only what you need and safely store what you don't use. Look into alternatives to chemicals, such as [natural gardening](#) or DIY cleaning products with the [Clean Green Cookbook](#).
2. **Steer clear of storm drains.** Storm drains are a direct link to local waterways. Protect waterways by never pouring anything down storm drains and ensuring water on your property doesn't pick up pollutants that can wash into storm drains. Power washing? Consider a stiff broom instead as power washing loosens pollutants (eg. oil, paint chips). Painting outside or working on a car? Be spill prepared with absorbent materials nearby.
3. **Safely dispose of leftover HHW.** Improper disposal of batteries (and electronics with batteries), propane cylinders and pool chemicals are the leading cause of fires at the landfill and recycling facilities. HHW can be safely disposed of for FREE at Hartland. For more info, including additional drop-offs, visit www.crd.bc.ca/hhw.
4. **Properly dispose of pool water.** Pool and hot tub water contains chemicals like chlorine and algaecides and should **not** be emptied down storm drains where it can pollute waterways. Instead, use a basement drain or toilet to discharge it into the sanitary sewer system — use a drain hose no larger than 1.5" in diameter. Note: Draining your pool onto your yard is generally not recommended due to risks of flooding neighboring properties and chemicals entering waterways. If unsure, contact your municipal public works.
5. **Report spills.** A 'spill' can be accidental, a leak, or illicit dumping of a substance (gasoline, oil, paint, antifreeze, etc.) and can occur on land or in water. If you see or experience a spill please report it. Call Emergency Management BC at 1.800.663.3456 (24/7).

Have a great summer and thank you for helping keep our environment clean, and workers and wildlife safe!

For more information on pollution prevention at home, visit www.crd.bc.ca/cleanwater.