



Cleaning Up After a Flood: Dealing with Household Hazardous Waste

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Common household products that contain hazardous materials become household hazardous waste when they are discarded. Typical products that might be in your home include paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides. These products contain potentially hazardous chemicals that require special care when you dispose of them.

What should I do if I have oily water in my basement?

Do not pump the water onto your lawn or into the street. In New York State, please contact the NYSDEC hotline at 1-800-457-7362.

Protect Yourself and Your Family When Cleaning:

- Be alert for leaking containers and reactive household chemicals, such as caustic drain cleaners and chlorine bleach.
- Keep children and pets away from household hazardous waste and spills until cleanup has been completed.
- Wear protective gear such as rubber gloves, rubber boots and a mask with a N-95 respirator.
- Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent and separate them from uncontaminated clothes and linens.
- Discard any household brooms, sponges or mops used in chemical cleanups.

What to Avoid:

- ✗ Do not pour chemicals down the drains, sewers or toilets.
- ✗ Avoid mixing household chemicals.
- ✗ Never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners.
- ✗ Do not burn chemicals.

For more environmental information, contact:
EPA: George Zachos,
Regional Public Liaison
888-283-7626

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:
518-402-8678
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8485.html>
www.epa.gov/sandy