

# MANAGING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES

## Including Pesticides, Herbicides & Fertilizers

### What are Household Hazardous Wastes?

Household Hazardous Waste can best be defined as unusable or leftover products from household projects that are hazardous in nature, but are not regulated as hazardous waste, under federal and state laws. Paints and paint related products, pesticides, fertilizer, pool chemicals, drain cleaner, degreaser, and other car care products are all common household hazardous waste products. These products, if improperly managed, will create environmental and public health hazards.

Household Hazardous Wastes are a significant source of nonpoint source pollution (pollution that cannot be identified at a single source) and The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has determined that these pollutants are a major cause of our nation's water quality problems.

### How are Household Hazardous Waste introduced into the environment?

There are several ways that Household Hazardous Wastes can be introduced into the environment. The most obvious source is the direct dumping of a hazardous product into the outdoor environment or down the drain. Examples of less deliberate pollution from Household Hazardous Waste includes: fluid leaking from vehicles; storm water runoff from lawns which carry fertilizer, pesticide, or even grass and leaves; carwash runoff; and even pet waste. Any debris or chemicals from driveways or backyards, including products and wastes applied to the ground can be washed into the storm sewer system, and subsequently into the waterways. *Remember, anything that is dumped onto the ground may spread and runoff the next time it rains!*

### What are the Damaging Effects?

The disposal of Household Hazardous Waste into storm drains, either directly or indirectly as



runoff, can have a significant impact on our waterways by depleting the oxygen within the water or by creating toxic levels of chemicals poisonous to aquatic life. Aquatic plants and animals need sufficient oxygen and clean water to survive. Leaves and grass clippings allow bacteria, oxygen-consuming materials, phosphorus, and nitrogen to be released into waterways. Yard waste, litter, and debris can clog storm drains, making them ineffective and causing localized flooding. Even soil can runoff into streams and block the sunlight which is essential for aquatic plants, thereby suffocating animals.

Sewage Treatment Plants can also be damaged by Household Hazardous Wastes, resulting in the release of untreated sewage chemicals into streams.

The City of Warren still has many houses which are currently connected to septic systems. When introduced into septic tanks, Household Hazardous Wastes can kill the microorganisms that make the septic system work. This will lead to untreated wastes draining into the soil and eventually seeping into the groundwater or waterway.

### What Defines a Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Wastes are considered hazardous if they contain chemicals that are corrosive, explosive/reactive, flammable, or toxic. The

following is a list of typical Household Hazardous Wastes:

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Mercury</i>                       | <i>Drain Cleaners</i>     |
| <i>Art Supplies</i>                  | <i>Metal Polish</i>       |
| <i>Floor Cleaners</i>                | <i>Photo Chemicals</i>    |
| <i>Dry Cleaning Fluids</i>           | <i>Radiator Cleaners</i>  |
| <i>Wood Preservatives</i>            | <i>Rust Preservatives</i> |
| <i>Oil Based Paint</i>               | <i>Wood Strippers</i>     |
| <i>Solvents</i>                      | <i>Paint Thinner</i>      |
| <i>Sealant</i>                       | <i>Degreasers</i>         |
| <i>Antifreeze</i>                    | <i>Gasoline</i>           |
| <i>Oil</i>                           | <i>Wood Stains</i>        |
| <i>Oil Filters</i>                   | <i>Brake Fluid</i>        |
| <i>Engine &amp; Radiator Flushes</i> | <i>Arsenic</i>            |
| <i>Old Chemistry Sets</i>            | <i>Transmission Fluid</i> |
| <i>Herbicides</i>                    | <i>Pesticides</i>         |
| <i>Rodent Killers</i>                | <i>Insect Sprays</i>      |
| <i>Muriatic Acid</i>                 | <i>Pool Chemicals</i>     |
| <i>Creosote</i>                      | <i>Cesspool Cleaners</i>  |
| <i>Batteries</i>                     | <i>Fertilizer</i>         |
| <i>Ammonia</i>                       | <i>Bleaches</i>           |
| <i>Cyanides</i>                      | <i>PCB wastes</i>         |
| <i>Florescent Bulbs</i>              | <i>Disinfectants</i>      |

### Pesticide, Herbicide & Fertilizer Management

Nationally, one fourth of the pollutants found in rivers and streams originate from residential use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These materials enter into the storm drain system through illegal dumping, runoff from excessive lawn irrigation, and from heavy rains and from there they are discharged directly to our waterways.

Use fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides sparingly on lawns and gardens and water efficiently when needed.

For pesticides, consider using less toxic pesticides such as insecticidal soaps, dusts, and horticultural oils. DO NOT apply pesticides and herbicides if rain is forecast. Use slow release fertilizers, such as the City's Nature's Blend. DO NOT allow water run-off from your yard right after applying pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.

### Common Pesticides/Herbicides Include:

- Kitchen, laundry & bath disinfectants and sanitizers, including bleach.
- Lawn and garden products such as weed killers.
- Flea and tick sprays, powders and pet collars.
- Termite control products.
- Rat and other rodent poisons.
- Insect sprays and wasp repellants for indoor use.
- Swimming pool chemicals, including those that kill algae.

For further information please contact the following:

The City of Warren  
Water Pollution Control Center  
330-841-2591

### OR CONTACT

Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District  
1-800-707-2673 or 330-675-2673  
www.startrecycling.com

### How can I dispose of my Household Hazardous Waste?

All Household Hazardous Waste must be properly stored or properly disposed of. Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District is now located at 5138 Enterprise Blvd. in the Northwest Business Park off of Parkman Road. For 2013, Trumbull County residents will have the opportunity to drop off any unwanted Household Hazardous Wastes at the new office at specified times and dates. Residents are encouraged to contact Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District with any questions regarding waste disposal or visit their website (see below). It is important that all Household Hazardous Wastes be properly stored until they can be properly disposed of.

# \$\$\$COSTLY MISTAKES\$\$\$ - Downspout Do's and Don'ts

### What is the correlation between downspouts and basement flooding?

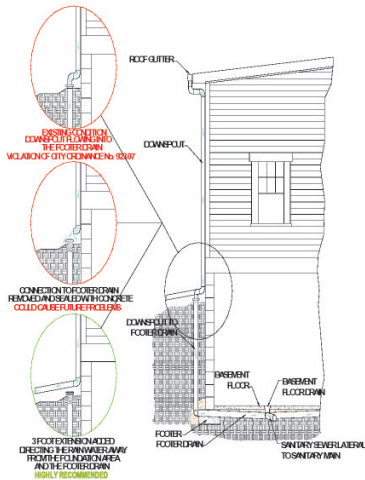
Water from downspouts can enter the sanitary sewer system by either being directly connected to the sanitary sewer lateral or by an improperly constructed downspout discharge.

Please call WPC at 330-841-2591 during business hours and 330-307-4211 after hours to report Basement Backups or Street Flooding.

### What can be done to correct these problems?

A downspout which is connected directly to the sanitary sewer lateral is illegal and must be corrected. IT ONLY TAKES A FEW HOUSES WITH AN ILLEGAL CONNECTION TO OVERLOAD THE SANITARY SEWER. Downspouts which discharge into the ground must be checked to ensure that they are not discharging into the sanitary sewer. If they are, they must be pulled out and properly discharged away from the house and the old line into the ground must be plugged with concrete (see Downspout Correction illustration).

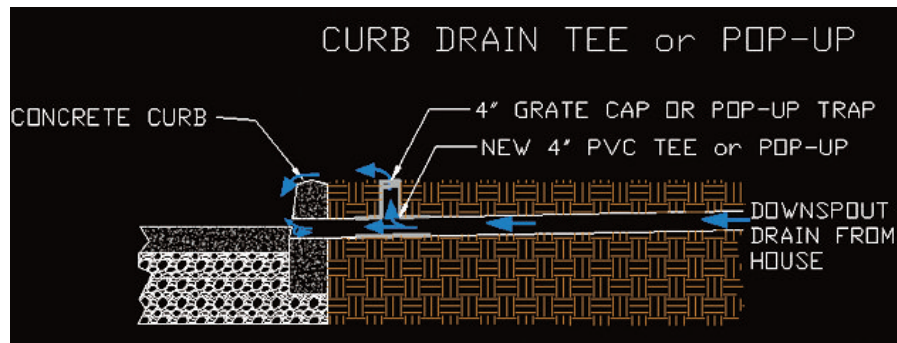
Downspouts which do not properly discharge away from the house can also be a problem and also overload the sanitary sewer system. Downspouts must discharge a minimum of 3-5 feet from the house and must discharge to an area that slopes away from the house. Most houses in the City of Warren have a backfill zone which extends 2 to 3 feet from the house. If water from the downspouts discharges within this zone, the water will find its way into the footer drains which discharge into



the sanitary sewer. Homeowners should also make sure that the ground around the house does not have any depressions and this it properly slopes away from the house.

### What if my downspouts discharge to the curb in the street?

A lot of houses within the City have downspout lines that discharge to knock-outs in the curb. These lines often become blocked and require maintenance. Homeowners with downspout lines to the road should check to make sure this line is clear. If this line becomes plugged, water can back up along the foundation and get into the sanitary lateral. If a downspout line to the road has never been flushed, it is recommended that the homeowner contract with a private company to have the line cleaned. In some instances, the curb knock-out has been partially covered at the road by layers of asphalt. A tee or pop-up as shown in the following illustration can be a simple solution to this problem. This modification to the downspout



leader, along with regular maintenance, will enable water to get to the road and not back up along the foundation.

### What can I do to HELP?

The following are things that residents can do to help keep stormwater from downspouts getting into the sanitary sewer system:

- Slope ground away from house foundation.
- Keep gutters free of leaves and debris to prevent gutters from overflowing along the foundation.

- Extend downspouts at least 3 feet away from foundation.
- If your downspouts run to the street, make sure the downspout line is working properly and is not blocked at the street.

For further information or to schedule a site visit by the WPC staff please contact the following:

330-841-2591

IMPROPER DOWNSPOUT



PROPER DOWNSPOUT

