

Get Assistance & More Information on Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
www.sleepycreekwatershedassociation.org

WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
HC 63 Box 2545
Romney, WV 26757 304-822-7266
www.wvdep.org

WV Division of Forestry
P.O. Box 1005
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 304-258-6205
www.wvforestry.com or
www.morgancountytrees.com

Morgan County Solid Waste Authority
180 S. Washington Street
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 304-258-8718
www.morgancountyrecycles.org

Rick's Welding & Machines 304-258-3527
2837 Highland Ridge Road
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Morgan Sanitation, Inc. 304-258-3544
P.O. Box 246
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

See the SCWA web site for more resources

The amount of pollution you stop may seem small, but it all adds up to cleaner water for everyone to enjoy!

Membership and Renewal Form

Membership year is from January-December. Dues should be paid by the first of the year.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Individual — \$10 Group/Org — \$25

Family — \$15 Sponsor — \$100

Mail to: SCWA, Treasurer
P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

HOMEMADE CLEANING PRODUCTS

One simple strategy for avoiding hazardous materials in the home is to use homemade substitutes with less dangerous, and *often much cheaper*, ingredients. When combined in the correct fashion and used properly, common items can do the same jobs as their dangerous cousins. For example, Borax, baking soda, and lemon juice combine to form an excellent toilet bowl cleaner and disinfectant but may require more setting time and a little more scrubbing than chlorine bleach or other hazardous substances. For more information on making cleaning agents, visit our web site.



FACT:

Throwing out materials like pesticides, paint thinner, and acid in the trash can injure sanitation workers and pollute the environment.



UNWANTED PHARMACEUTICALS

- Under *NO* circumstances should you flush unwanted pharmaceuticals down the toilet or drain as they end up in the watershed.
- Ask your pharmacist or health care provider if they will dispose of unused prescription drugs.
- Keep pharmaceuticals in the original containers; the label may contain safety information. *For your own protection, remove your personal information from the label.*
- To solid drugs, add a small amount of water and some absorbent material (cat litter, sawdust, dirt).
- To a liquid drug add absorbent material and recap.
- Double enclose the container in a bag to prevent breaking; then place in trash.

MERCURY

Mercury is used in a variety of products such as thermometers and fluorescent lamps. If you improperly dispose of products with mercury in them, they may break and release mercury vapors



which are harmful to human and ecological health.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISPOSING OF PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN MERCURY

Place all mercury-containing products or containers of mercury inside a larger container with a tight fitting lid, or double bag it.

Pack kitty litter or oil-absorbent matter around the product to protect it from breaking or sudden shocks.

Label storage container clearly as "Mercury - DO NOT OPEN."

If you must wait for a hazardous waste collection day, store products safely in their original containers with the labels intact, and keep them out of reach of children and pets.

Transport containers to a household hazardous collection center in a cardboard box. Secure them so they do not tip over. This will minimize shifting or sliding during sudden stops or turns. Contact the WV DEP for information on hazardous waste collection in the County.

Transport containers in the back of a pick-up truck or in a car trunk. If you must transport in the passenger compartment, make sure there is adequate ventilation.

RECYCLING

Morgan County maintains an enthusiastic and committed recycling program with scheduled locations all over the county to make recycling easy and convenient.

Recycling drop off sites, days, and times as well as materials suitable for recycling are posted on the Morgan County Solid Waste Authority web site or in the Morgan Messenger.



Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
Protecting and Preserving Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, WV

How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Materials



A watershed is all the land area that drains to a given body of water.

We all live in a watershed!

This brochure was made possible through the generosity of the West Virginia Stream Partners Program (WV SPP). The WV SPP is a cooperative effort of DEP, DNR, the Division of Forestry, and the WV Conservation Agency.

P.O. Box 991
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
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HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE (HHW)

Proper disposal of trash—garbage, plastics, glass, metal, newspapers, tires, motor oil, paint, unused prescription medicines—is critical to personal health, the health of our streams and rivers, and all of West Virginia. HHW is a household product that contains corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. HHW such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and pesticides contains potentially hazardous ingredients and requires special care for disposal.



HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS INCLUDE

- **Cleaning products:** oven cleaner, floor wax, furniture polish, drain cleaner, and spot remover.
- **Car care/maintenance products:** motor oil, battery acid, gasoline, car wax, engine cleaner, antifreeze, degreaser, radiator flush, and rust preventative.
- **Home improvement products:** paints, preservatives, strippers, brush cleaners, and solvents.
- **Other products** labeled toxic, flammable, or corrosive, or containing lye, phenols, petroleum distillates, or trichlorobenzene.

Dumping of trash on private or public lands or waterways without a permit **is against the law.**

No Open Burning

Open burning of any household trash, even in burn barrels is illegal. Burning of leaves, branches, grass, stubble, stumps, and other natural vegetation grown on home premises is permissible when it is in compliance with WV forest fire laws. **Call 304-258-0305 prior to lighting a permitted burn** to provide the fire department advance notice of your intentions.

HHW RULES OF THUMB

- Know how to apply hazardous materials properly, especially how much is sufficient and how to avoid releasing hazardous materials into the environment.
- **Household hazardous wastes should never be flushed down the drain** — drains lead to either a home septic system or a municipal treatment plant, neither of which has adequate capability to remove hazardous chemicals from wastewater. Toxic chemicals might also disrupt microbial processes in septic tanks and treatment plants, reducing their effectiveness.
- Home hazardous products should **never** be poured on the ground, into gutters, or down storm drains where they will eventually be transported untreated into nearby water bodies, including water wells.
- Using alternative non-toxic products instead of toxic substances drastically reduces the presence of toxins in stormwater and receiving waters.

COMMONLY USED PRODUCTS & SAFER ALTERNATIVES	
Aerosol	Use pump-type or non-aerosol products.
Art supplies	Purchase water-based paints or inks that do not contain lead or other toxic materials.
Batteries	Buy rechargeable batteries which are a cost-effective alternative to disposable batteries. Recycle ALL batteries.
Chemical fertilizers	Compost yard clippings and food scraps. Manure is another alternative to chemical fertilizers.
Motor Oil	Use re-refined motor oil.
Pesticides	Keep homes and gardens tidy to reduce the food supply for insect pests and avert the need for pesticides. Onion, garlic, and marigold plants help keep garden pests at bay. Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.

PAINT & PESTICIDES



Seal paint cans tightly before storing. Paint should be kept in dry areas that will not freeze, away from sparks or flames. To prepare unwanted paint for disposal, remove the paint can lid and leave the paint to dry in the can. When the paint is completely dry, reapply the lid and put the can out for pickup by the refuse company. Pesticides should be stored in a dry area in their original containers with the labels intact. The best way to dispose of pesticides, including restricted pesticides, is by following the application directions on the packaging. If you can't use all the product, you may have a neighbor or relative who can use it. If that isn't possible, and a household hazardous waste collection program isn't available, often the only alternative is to dispose of household pesticides in the trash. This is the least-preferred disposal option, but it may be the only option available in some areas. Dry pesticides should be double-bagged before placing in trash. Small containers (less than 1 gallon) of liquid pesticides should be wrapped securely in several layers of newspaper, placed in a strong plastic bag or double-bagged, then placed in the trash. Liquid pesticides and fertilizers are the only liquid wastes that are allowed to be placed in the trash because it is generally more hazardous to try to stabilize these wastes, especially for chemically sensitive individuals.

AUTO CARE

Washing cars and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants into the watershed. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into the watershed and water wells. Here are some sobering facts about motor oil:



- Used oil from a single oil change (approx. one gallon) can ruin a million gallons of fresh water—a year's supply for 50 people.
- Used oil is insoluble, persistent, slow to degrade, sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers, and can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals that

pose a health threat to humans, plants, and animals.

- Recycling used oil would *save the U.S. 1.3 million barrels of oil per day.*
- It takes 42 gallons of crude oil to make 2.5 quarts of high quality lubricating oil. One gallon of **used/recycled oil** provides the same 2.5 quarts of high quality lubricating oil.

MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car **on your yard so the water soaks into the ground – wash cars on gravel, grass, or other permeable surfaces.**

Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

Use only biodegradable soaps.

Repair cars as soon as possible to prevent leaks of fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be spread by stormwater.

Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials.

Rick's Welding & Machines

2837 Highland Ridge Road
takes used motor oil provided that it is covered so that there is no water or dust in the oil.

TIRE DISPOSAL

- Automobile tires (16" or less) can be set out for pick-up by Morgan Sanitation with a limit of 8 per year. Call ahead for approval.
- Periodically, WV Department of Highways/DEP announces an amnesty day on which they will take light vehicle tires. Watch for amnesty day announcements in the Morgan Messenger.

