

BEST PRACTICES



The Safe Road to Spring Cleaning

101: How do I know my Household Products are Hazardous?

Look for the key words POISON, DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION on the label. Examples include oil paints and thinners, solvents, used motor oil and some cleaning supplies. In addition to being harmful to pets and family members, hazardous products can harm the environment if they are not properly stored and disposed of. For a guide to safer household products, go to <http://tinyurl.com/hpyc8w8>

102: How do I Safely Store Hazardous Household Products?

Store in original container. Do not remove the label. Keep in a large plastic tote to contain any spills or leaks. Follow the label instructions for cleaning up any spilled or leaked products. Never combine different products.

103: How Do I Properly Dispose of Hazardous Household Products?

HazoHouse offers safe and free disposal for Thurston County residents. There is a small charge for businesses. Open Friday through Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., HazoHouse is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road NE in Lacey. For more information about what materials are accepted at HazoHouse, and how to properly pack and transport items, call 360-867-2912 or go to:

<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/solidwaste/hazardous/haz-home.htm>

104: What is an Illicit Discharge? How Can I Prevent one?

An illicit discharge is defined as anything other than stormwater going into the stormwater system. Examples of illicit discharges are carpet cleaning or pressure washing waste water, paint, oil, pet waste, sewage, grease, sediment and garbage.

105: Carpet Cleaning Tips

When cleaning your carpet, make sure to dispose of the dirty wash water properly. If on a sewer system, filter out debris and flush dirty wash water. If on a septic, filter and spread dirty water over a landscaped area. The cleaning agents can harm your septic system. Place filtered debris into the trash. If contracting a service, ask the company about their wash water disposal policy.

106: Pressure Washing Tips

If your home was built before 1978, test your paint first to find out if it contains lead or heavy metals, which may require that paint flakes be disposed of at HazoHouse. Before pressure washing, cover the ground with tarps to capture paint flakes, and direct dirty wash water into a grassy or graveled area to keep contaminants from washing into storm drains or roadside conveyance ditches.

107. Clean Up Pet Waste

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and viruses that can make young children sick, pollute our waterways and contaminate shellfish. Bacteria and viruses in pet waste can persist in the soil for a long time. Dispose of pet waste by scooping, bagging it and trashing it. Every dog, every doo, every time.

108. Reporting Spills

To report a small-scale spill or illicit discharge, call the 24-hour hotline for the jurisdiction where the spill occurred. You can do so anonymously.

- Olympia: 360-753-8333
- Lacey: 360-491-5644
- Tumwater: 360-754-4150
- Thurston County: 360-867-2099

To report a large-scale spill, also call the Washington Department of Ecology at 360-407-6300. For life-threatening spill emergencies, call 911.

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