

If Spills Occur

Hopefully you handle products carefully, but if a spill occurs here are some important tips:

- Remove children and pets from the area
- Ventilate the area
- Wear proper safety equipment
- DO NOT attempt to clean up the spill with another cleaning product
- Contain the spill by soaking it up with a nonflammable absorbent such as a clay based kitty litter
- Place contaminated absorbent into a noncorrosive container such as a plastic bucket with a tight fitting lid
- Seal and label the container
- Contact your solid waste authorities for proper disposal instructions

9654 182nd Street
Bothell, WA
Phone: 425.486.2768
Fax: 425.806.6898
E-mail: janet.geer@ci.bothell.wa.us

City of Bothell



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USE AND STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



City of Bothell™

Storm/Surface Water Division

Safe Use, Storage and Disposal



Almost every home contains hazardous chemicals or materials that pose a health risk to humans and the environment if improperly handled.

Products used in clean-

ing, home improvement, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, hobbies and a variety of other tasks are all potentially hazardous. Each year thousands of people are injured by exposure or accident involving improperly used hazardous household products. Because of the danger, these products require special attention, handling, use and disposal.

What makes a product hazardous?

A product is hazardous if it has one of the four properties:

- Flammable-can be easily set on fire
- Reactive-can react or combust through exposure to heat, shock, pressure or incompatible substances
- Corrosive-can burn and destroy living tissue or other material when brought in contact
- Toxic-capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption. Some can cause cancer, genetic mutations, or harm to a fetus.

How Can You Recognize Hazardous Chemicals?

Labels of hazardous products are required to list signal words like:

- DANGER
- POISON

Indicate that the product is highly toxic, corrosive, or extremely flammable

- WARNING
- CAUTION

Indicate that the product is moderately or slightly toxic

What Types of Chemicals Are Hazardous?

Here is a brief list of just some of the hazardous chemicals found in most homes:



- **Automotive Products**-oil, antifreeze, batteries, wax, soaps, cleaners, fluids
- **Home Improvement**-paint, varnish, stain, thinner, stripper, caulk, adhesive
- **Pesticides**-insecticides, repellents, weed killers, rat poison, pet spray and dip, flea control, moth balls, disinfectants, wood preservatives
- **Cleaners**-furniture polish and wax, drain opener, oven cleaner, tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, spot remover, bleach ammonia
- **Other**-batteries, cosmetics, hair products, shoe polish, lighter fluid, prescription medications, arts and crafts materials

Read the Labels and Think Before you Buy

There are many things you can do to protect your family and the environment :

- Look for safer alternatives to hazardous products
- Buy the least hazardous product
- Buy only as much as you need for the job
- Do not rely on the words “nontoxic” instead read the entire label for additional health warnings and use good judgment
- Read carefully and make sure you are able to follow the directions-if it says do not breath vapors or avoid any skin contact will you be able to do this?
- Make sure you can keep the product away from small children and buy products in childproof containers when possible
- Check and see if safety equipment is necessary and make sure you use it
- Avoid aerosol products

Use and Storage

- Make sure that you do not mix products
- Use only the recommended amount for the job
- Store products in separate cabinets away from food and use locks or childproof latches
- Make sure that products are clearly labeled and lids are sealed tightly
- Keep products in original containers and never store in beverage or food containers
- Keep products off the floor and away from any sources of heat, spark or flame
- Store volatile chemicals in well ventilated areas
- Keep containers dry and if corrosion occurs place into plastic container with a nonflammable absorbent such as kitty litter