

Use Your Brain Before Pouring Anything Down the Drain



For more information:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance

(800) 988-7901

www.useyourbrain.IN.gov

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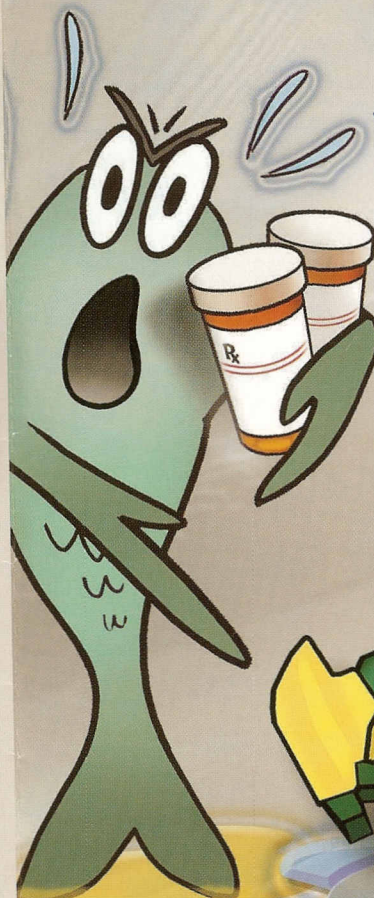
Indiana Department of
Environmental Management



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Stop!

I Don't
Trash
Your Home
So Don't
Trash
Mine!



*Grease
Oils*



Guidelines to Follow

Keep all medications (liquids and solids) out of the water supply.

Do not dispose of unwanted medications by pouring them down a drain or flushing them down a toilet. Many medications cannot be removed by wastewater treatment plants. Some of them even damage the treatment system.

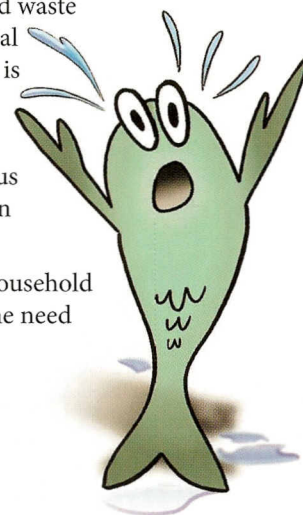
- Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance. Contact information is available at www.idem.IN.gov/prevention/hhw/disposal/.
- If your solid waste management district does not provide collection of medications, follow these steps for disposal in your regular trash:
 - ▶ Dissolve tablets or capsules in the original container with a small amount of water. For liquid medications, add sawdust, kitty litter or flour to the original container;
 - ▶ Remove labels from prescription bottles or completely mark out all patient information;
 - ▶ Put all lids back on the containers tightly and put them in a heavy-duty sealed bag. Tight lids and sealed bags will help keep the medications from leaking out; and

- ▶ Put the sealed bag in your trash so that it is not visible from outside the trash bag to discourage unintended use.

Properly manage all household chemicals.

Household products that contain hazardous substances become household hazardous waste (HHW) once the consumer no longer has a use for it and disposes of it.

- When in doubt, don't pour it out. Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance. Contact information is available at www.idem.IN.gov/prevention/hhw/disposal/.
- Refer to the household hazardous waste disposal chart contained in this document.
- Purchase only the amount of household chemicals necessary to avoid the need for disposal.



Safe Disposal Guide



This symbol represents products that can be safely poured down the drain with plenty of water. (Homeowners using septic tanks should consider alternate disposal and try to purchase these items sparingly.)



This symbol represents products that can be disposed of in the garbage.



This symbol indicates you should contact your local household hazardous waste (HHW) program for proper disposal instructions.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Chart

Bathroom

Alcohol-based lotions			
Bathroom cleaners			
Disinfectants			
Permanent lotions			
Hair relaxers			
Medicine			
Nail polish			
Nail polish remover			
Thermometers (with mercury)			
Toilet bowl cleaner			
Tub and tile cleaner			

Garage/Workshop

Antifreeze			
Auto body filler			
Batteries, auto			
Brake fluid			
Car wax with solvent			
Diesel fuel			
Fuel oil			
Gasoline			
Glue (solvent based)			
Glue (water based)			
Kerosene			
Metal polish with solvent			
Mineral spirits			
Motor oil			
Paint-latex, dried hard			
Paint-latex, still liquid			
Paint-oil based			
Paint-auto			
Paint brush cleaner w/solvent			
Paint brush cleaner w/TSP*			
Paint thinner			
Paint stripper			
Primer			
Rust remover			
Switches (potentially containing mercury)			
Transmission fluid			
Turpentine			

Garage/Workshop

Varnish			
Windshield washer solution			
Wood preservative			

Garden

Fungicide			
Herbicide			
Insecticide			
Pesticide			
Rat, mouse, gopher poison			
Weed killer			



Here/There

Ammunition			(Take to police or fire station)
Batteries, alkaline			
Batteries, mercury-containing			
Batteries, rechargeable			
Dry cleaning solvents			
Fiberglass epoxy			
Gun cleaning solvents			
Lighter fluid			
Moth balls			
Photographic chemicals			
Septic tank degreasers			
Shoe polish			
Smoke alarms			(Return to manufacturer)
Swimming pool chemicals			
Thermostats (mercury ampule inside)			

Kitchen

Aerosol cans-empty			
Aerosol cans-full			
Ammonia-based cleaners			
Drain cleaners			
Fats, oils and grease			
Floor care products			
Furniture polish			
Metal polish			
Oven cleaner			

*Trisodium phosphate

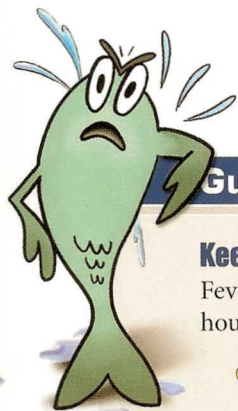
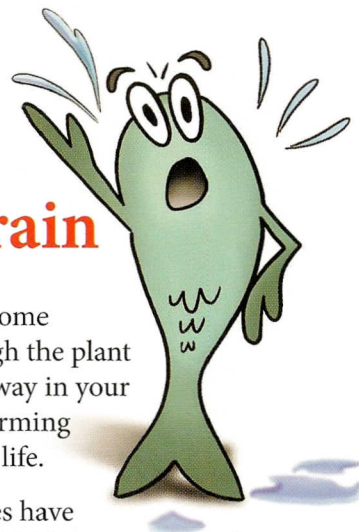
Use Your Brain Before Pouring Anything Down the Drain

If you live in a city or town, chances are everything you pour down the drain ends up at the local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). So, before you flush, pour or dump anything into a toilet, sink or household drain, think about what it might do to your WWTP and your environment.

Your local wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat human wastes and dirty water from household activities such as bathing, showering, laundry, and dishwashing. Once treated, the clean water is safely released to a river, lake, or stream in your community. When other items – including household chemicals – are sent to the WWTP, they can harm the treatment process and increase the overall cost

of wastewater treatment. Some chemicals may pass through the plant and be released to a waterway in your community, potentially harming human health and aquatic life.

Some Indiana communities have combined sewer overflow (CSO) systems which convey both wastewater and storm water to the wastewater treatment plant through a single pipe. During periods of heavy rain, CSOs may release untreated wastewater directly into your local rivers, lakes and streams. This is an even greater threat to human health and the environment.



Guidelines to Follow

Keep mercury out of the sink.

Fever thermometers are the most common household items that contain mercury.

- Search your home for items containing mercury, and tag them properly.
- Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance; contact information is available at www.idem.IN.gov/prevention/hhw/disposal/.
- Properly manage a mercury spill.
 - ▶ Do **not** vacuum mercury;
 - ▶ Do **not** rinse it down the sink;
 - ▶ Do follow the mercury spill guidance at www.idem.IN.gov/your_environment/mercury/catalog/spill.pdf
 - ▶ Call IDEM at (800) 988-7901.

Collect fats, oils and grease from food products.

- Store in plastic or glass jars with screw on lids.
- Dispose of collected items with your trash.
- For large quantities, contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance, contact information is available at www.idem.IN.gov/recycle/topics/swmd/contact/.