

TODD CREEK VILLAGE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT



Proud to be your area water provider

Protecting Water Sources—Part 1

It's an undeniable fact that modern lifestyles impact natural water resources. While the average household generally contributes only a small amount of pollutants individually, the cumulative impact has significant ramifications. As the area develops, the loss of natural vegetation causes more rapid water runoff to lakes and streams, carrying contaminants with it. Cleaning up polluted water is difficult and costly so keeping water sources clean is much more cost-effective in the long-term. Because of this, it's to everyone's benefit that we all do what we can to protect the surrounding watershed habitat.

The typical home contains an array of cleaning products which, when used according to their labels, can make our lives easier. Unfortunately, many of these everyday products fall within the EPA's definition of hazardous chemicals because they can catch fire, explode, corrode, or because they are toxic. Regardless, they are all potential pollutants and improper disposal of them can cause serious environmental problems which not only create health and safety risks, but also significantly impact the costs associated with providing safe drinking water.

Municipal wastewater treatment plants are not always equipped to effectively treat water contaminated with pesticides and other toxic chemicals. In fact, as little as one teaspoon of certain pesticides rinsed down a drain can be detrimental to the natural water system. Choosing non-hazardous products for household jobs is always best, but if you must use the more toxic chemicals, there are a few things you can do to mitigate the risks:

- ◆ Buy only enough chemical for the immediate job
- ◆ Follow all label directions for use and disposal
- ◆ Store leftover products in their original containers

Never dump leftover chemicals in your yard, in the trash, down the sink or toilet, or into storm drains as street gutters and storm drains lead directly to waterways. To safely dispose of hazardous chemicals it's always best to contact the local health department, wastewater treatment plant, or the local Colorado State University Cooperative Extension office for the location of a hazardous waste drop site or collection day(s) in your area.

Transparency Notice: Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hazardous Household Chemicals

- ◆ **Automotive Products:** oil, battery acid, brake fluid, antifreeze, gasoline
- ◆ **Fertilizers and Pesticides:** herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, no-pest strips, flea collars, pet shampoo
- ◆ **Household Cleaners:** spot removers, furniture polishes, deodorizers, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, disinfectants, moth repellants, bleach, ammonia
- ◆ **Maintenance Supplies:** paint, varnish, lacquer, turpentine, wood stains, wood preservatives, asphalt, asbestos, roofing tar, swimming pool chemicals



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