

Everyday choices matter.

Household hazardous waste from your home may seem insignificant, but there are 3 to 10 gallons of products containing hazardous substances in an average Hoosier household. Our Whitley County Solid Waste District collected and disposed of 39,750 pounds of hazardous waste in 2016.



Polluted storm water runoff is the biggest cause of the pollution that affects over 9,000 miles of Indiana rivers and streams. Both the Blue River and the Eel River are on the State's list of impaired waters, primarily because of polluted storm water.

Hazardous wastes pollute. Hazardous wastes dumped in a sewer or toilet bowl can disrupt waste water treatment facilities or septic systems. Hazardous substances in trash can harm waste handlers or be spilled and contaminate ground water. Hazardous chemicals can accumulate in our lakes, rivers and streams and cause long-term harm to fish, wildlife and humans.

The Creek Heelsplitter



The Miami Indians named the Eel River, "Ke-na-po-co-mo-co, the river of the snake fish". Historically, the Eel River supported a diverse and abundant population of freshwater mussels. In 1922, the Eel ranked fourth among Indiana rivers in pounds of commercially harvested mussel shells. Today, nearly half of Indiana's native mussels are gone or listed as endangered or species of special concern. It is unlawful to take or possess living or dead mussels or mussel shells from Indiana waters.

Learn more about preventing storm water pollution by visiting the City of Columbia City MS4 webpage at: www.columbiacity.net/community/stormwater-2/

Or by contacting Jon Gotz at the Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District:
260-244-6266 extension 3



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

Reduce! Recycle! E-Cycle!

PREVENTING STORM WATER POLLUTION



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

*City of Columbia City
Municipal Separate Storm
Sewer System (MS4)*

*Whitley County
Soil and Water
Conservation District*

What is household hazardous waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reactive ingredients are considered household hazardous waste. These products are safe to use when you follow the manufacturer's instructions, but need special care when you dispose of them. When disposed of improperly, these wastes can cause pollution and pose a threat to people, pets and wildlife.

Kitchen. Aerosol cans (full), floor care products, furniture polish, metal polish, oven cleaners.

Bath. Disinfectants, nail polish, nail polish remover, mercury thermometers.

Garage. Antifreeze, auto batteries, brake fluid, car wax with solvent, diesel fuel, gasoline, kerosene, mercury switches, metal polish with solvent, motor oil, transmission fluid.

Workshop. Glue (solvent based), mineral spirits, paint (liquid latex or oil based), auto paint, paint stripper, thinner, primer, rust remover, paint brush cleaners (solvent or TSP), turpentine, varnish, wood preservatives.

Garden. Fungicide, herbicide, insecticide, pesticide, rat/mouse/gopher poison, weed killer.

Elsewhere. Batteries, cleaning solvents, epoxies, lighter fluid, moth balls, septic tank degreasers, swimming pool chemicals.

DO YOU HAVE PAINTS & CHEMICALS TO DISPOSE OF?

WHITLEY COUNTY Solid Waste District accepts paints and chemicals every Wednesday from 8 am to 4 pm. 701 S. Line Street Columbia City. Call (260) 248-3132 for assistance.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern.

CECs, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products are being detected more frequently at low levels in ground and surface water. Many CECs are resistant to natural break down processes and can accumulate in the environment. They can pass through septic systems and wastewater treatment plants and be released to ground or surface waters. Some CECs can disrupt development and reproduction of aquatic animals such as fish, but their potential to impact human health is unclear at the present.



Disposing of medicines properly.

Return unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a drug take-back program or follow these steps:

1. Take the drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix the drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put the mixture in a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable plastic bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number on the empty container by covering it with a permanent marker or by scratching it off.
5. The sealed container with the drug mixture and the empty containers can now be placed in the garbage.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ◆ **Reduce** your use of products containing hazardous substances. Shop for environmentally friendly natural products. Find out about alternative methods for cleaning household fixtures and furnishings.
- ◆ **Recycle** useful materials, such as paper, glass, plastic and metals. Visit www.RecycleWhitley.com or contact the Whitley County Solid Waste District, 701 S. Line Street, Columbia City, Indiana (260) 248-3132 to learn more.
- ◆ **E-Cycle** Discarded electronics contain heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium. In Indiana, it's illegal to dispose of electronics in trash that is headed to a landfill. Whitley County residents can drop off electronics at the Whitley County Solid Waste District free of charge.
- ◆ **Don't put needles or medical waste** in your recycling container. Take SHARPS to the Whitley County Solid Waste District during business hours and ask for assistance.
- ◆ **Don't pour or flush** hazardous substances or medications down a drain or down the toilet. Columbia City has a combined sewer system. During a heavy rain, these substances can be discharged directly into our local streams and rivers.