



# gwinnettcounty

## Department of **Water Resources**

### **How to Handle Household Hazards**

Did you know that some common household products can contain harmful components? When those products are disposed of they are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW). If these household products are not disposed of properly, they could cause harm to either the public or the environment. Some common HHW products include paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides. Occasionally, these products are thrown away or dumped into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater system includes drains, pipes, and ditches, and lead directly to surface waters. HHW in the storm drains can lead to water pollution and could harm our rivers, lakes, and streams. Fortunately, there are various methods available to properly dispose of or recycle these products in your household.

The first step to preventing stormwater pollution with your HHW is to read and follow disposal directions on the product label. Another way is to share the product with a neighbor or family member who can use the remaining product. That way, it doesn't have to be disposed of at all! Be sure to never mix hazardous waste with other products as this could lead to dangerous reactions. Many local retailers participate in recycling programs and will take your old electronics, used motor oil, batteries, and light bulbs. For more information on how to dispose of household hazardous wastes, please visit [www.gwinnettcb.org/recycling](http://www.gwinnettcb.org/recycling) or the County's recycling directory at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com).

Remember, discharges to the stormwater drainage system are considered violations of city of Grayson's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance. Grayson partners with the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources to maintain the stormwater drainage system, including investigating complaints related to this ordinance. If you know of or see individuals dumping hazardous substances, or anything other than rain water into storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams, please call 678.376.7000 to report the violation.

