Rockford's Hazardous Waste Facility

To find a facility near you to drop off hazardous materials go to: www.Earth911.com. Type in your address and it will direct you to the closest facility and what type of hazardous materials it will accept.

For Rockford residents, the closest facility is at the Rock River Water Reclamation District, 3333 Kishwaukee St., Rockford, IL 61109.

The collection times are as follows:

Saturdays – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sundays – Noon to 4 p.m.

Why Care About Clean Water?

Storm water pollution is one of the greatest threats to Rockford's creeks and rivers. Clean water means safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to the landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots and lawns into storm sewers and drainage ditches then directly to our streams, rivers and ultimately, the ocean.

City of Rockford
Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
425 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
Phone: 815-987-5570
Fax: 815-967-7058
www.rockfordil.gov

November 2011

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AROUND YOUR HOME

What Are Hazardous Household Materials?

Check out any storage cabinet in your home. Do you see products like paint thinner, spot remover, oven cleaner, furniture polish, drain opener, pool chemicals or hair spray? These and other products are all hazardous because the chemicals they contain are corrosive, explosive, reactive, flammable or toxic.

Many products are immediately recognized as hazardous by their product name. Other times the name may not tell you anything about the product. Regardless, labels and instruction should be read carefully.

Consider This……

The average household throws 15.5 pounds of hazardous materials into the trash each year. Other times these products are disposed of in other ways, such as used motor oil being poured down a storm drain or other product down sink drains to sewers.

Flammable or reactive household chemicals can release toxic fumes or even explode when mixed together in the trash. Dumping solvents into landfills can contaminate surface and groundwater. This ultimately pollutes our drinking water as well as killing fish and wildlife. Pesticides can damage sewage treatment plants and oil and other stuff dumped into storm drains ultimately ends up in creeks and rivers.

Paints, Solvents and Adhesives

- Select water based or latex paints whenever possible,
- Sweep up dust or paint chips from sanding or stripping. Dispose in trash unless it is marine or lead based paints which should be treated as hazardous material.
- For water based paint, paint out brushes as much as possible and rinse in sink,
- For oil based paint, paint out as much as possible, filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess material as hazardous waste.

Protect Our Water From Oil

- Keep your car well maintained (no leaks etc.),
- Repair leaks immediately and schedule regular tune ups,
- Go to service centers for oil changes,
- When changing your own oil never do it on the street. Use a self contained pan and discard at an approved location.
- Never discard oil, gas or antifreeze into a storm drain.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PROTECT OUR WATER?

- Never use the gutter or storm drain system for disposal of household waste. Liquid residue from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous waste.
- When thoroughly dry, water based paint cans, spent brushes, rags and drop cloths may be disposed of in the trash.
- Rinse containers and use rinse water as product. Dispose of rinse containers in the trash.
- Properly use and store all toxic products including cleaners, solvents and paints.
- Use kitty litter or other absorbent material to clean up spills from paved surfaces.
- **DO NOT WASH INO THE STREET!** Depending on the material, dispose of in the trash or at the Hazardous Waste Facility.

Store Products Safely

- Buy child proof packaging and store in locked cabinet.
- Close lids tightly so products don't leak, evaporate or dry out.
- Store in cool, dry area away from sources of heat, spark or flames.
- Separate flammables, corrosives and poisons.