

R-4: Residential Hazardous Waste Use, Storage and Disposal

A variety of hazardous materials are routinely used in and around our homes including chemical cleaners, pesticides, paints, solvents, lighter fluid, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and other automotive products, wood preservatives and even batteries from our electronic equipment.

Improper disposal and failure to keep hazardous products from rainwater contact may cause surface water and groundwater pollution. With so many hazardous materials present in thousands of households in King County, the cumulative adverse effects of poor usage, storage and disposal practices are potentially severe to human and environmental health.

Potential pollutants can include but are not limited to fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Water Quality Code (KCC 9.12). If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs

- Store all hazardous materials inside a building, shed or under cover. Do not expose hazardous materials to rainwater.
- Use products only as specified on labeling directions.
- Carefully follow disposal directions on containers of chemicals.
- Never discharge or dump hazardous chemicals into storm drainage systems or on to the ground.

Disposal Options

Dispose of and recycle hazardous wastes through the Household Hazardous Waste Program or other recycling programs or businesses. There are three fixed hazardous waste collection sites for household hazardous waste in Seattle and King County. See www.hazwastehelp.org/ or call the Household Hazards Line at 206-296-4692 for more information.

Tips

- Use the least toxic product available. See <https://kingcountyhazwastewa.gov/en/households-disposal/households-safer-home-products> for information on finding alternatives to hazardous household products.

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.