



# Renew Our Waters

Every choice counts.

## Household Hazardous Waste

### Cleaning out the garage and keeping our waters clean

We all have the opportunity - and the responsibility - to dispose of waste materials properly. The rule of thumb is: If you wouldn't dump it in the river, don't let it touch parking lots, soil, or any other place where it can be washed into a stream or storm drain. Post this sheet in your garage storage area as a reminder. This will help us change one habit at a time, so we have good fishing, swimming, paddling and waterskiing when the work is done.

#### HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Certain household chemicals, when not used up properly, become household hazardous waste. These products can contain the same chemicals as strictly regulated industrial wastes.

**If you wouldn't dump it in the river, don't let it touch parking lots, soil or any other place where it can be washed into a stream or storm drain.**

These products include: cleaning products and wash water, food oils and grease, automotive oil, grease and waste fluids, paint, petroleum-based solvents, rodent baits, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, concrete wash water and sidewalk salt.

#### HANDLE WITH CARE

To avoid the potential risks associated with household wastes, always monitor the use, storage and disposal of products with potentially hazardous substances.

#### PROPER DISPOSAL

All of the counties in Northeast Wisconsin have Household Hazardous Waste drop off programs or collection days. Contact your local environmental, health or solid waste agency for instructions on proper use and disposal.

#### USING LESS

The quantity of waste from a single household may be small, but that quantity adds up fast considering the number of households in Northeast Wisconsin. Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients.

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt and water from things people do, like overwatering the lawn. As water makes its way to the storm drain it picks up pollutants like oil from car leaks and improperly disposed of waste. When we choose products carefully and dispose of products properly, we can reduce the amount of pollution that enters our local waterways through runoff.

Untreated runoff is the biggest threat to our nation's water quality, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Let's make the small, important changes that will reduce that threat and improve water quality and our lives!

## Realize

What touches the ground enters the water