

Use Your Brain Before Pouring Anything Down the Drain



(812) 349-2867
FAX: (812) 349-2872

www.IndianaHHW.org

3400 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

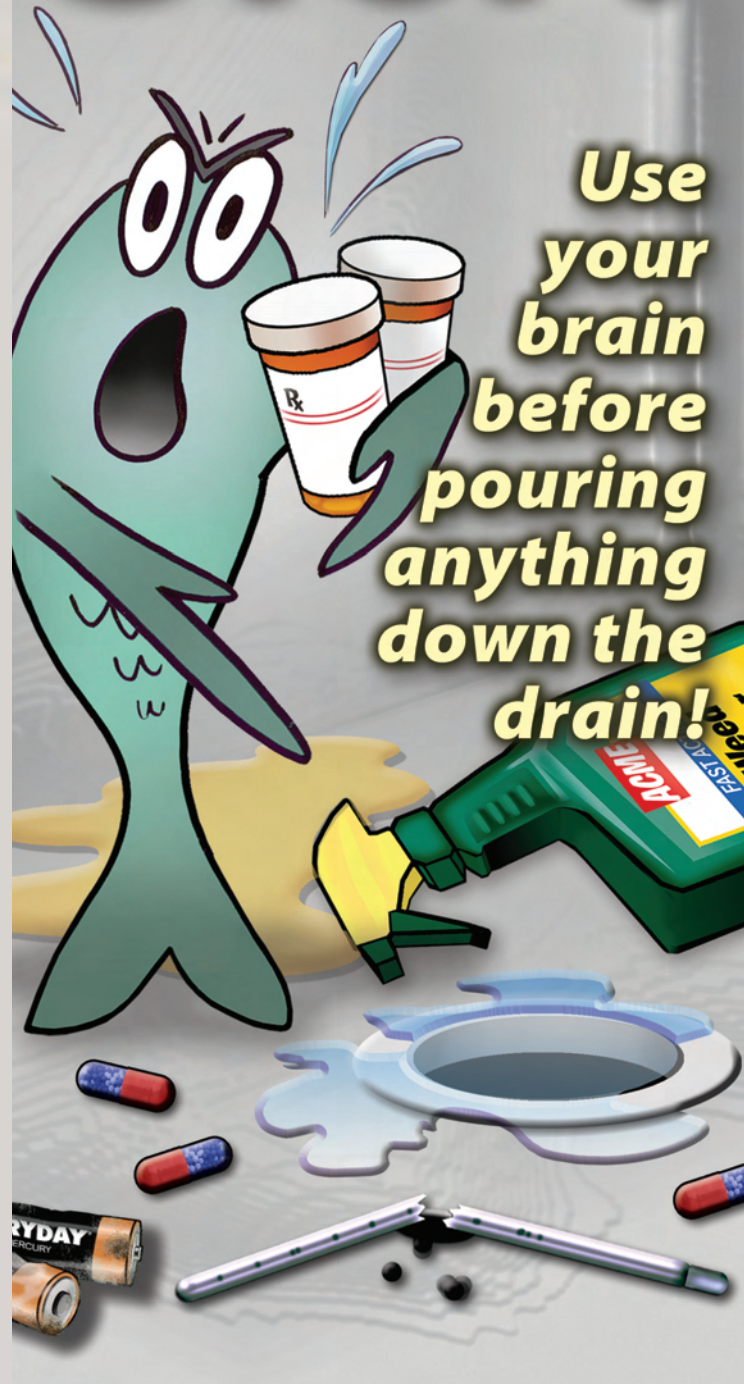


(800) 451-6027

www.recycle.IN.gov

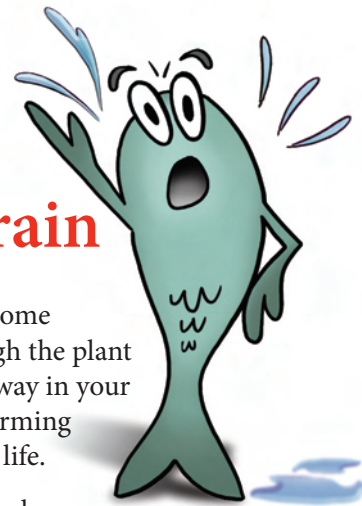
100 North Senate Avenue
MC 64-00 IGCS W041
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

STOP!



Use your brain before pouring anything down the drain!

Use Your Brain Before Pouring Anything Down the Drain



If you live in a city or town, chances are everything you pour down the drain ends up at the local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). So, before you flush, pour or dump anything into a toilet, sink or household drain, think about what it might do to your WWTP and your environment.

Your local wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat human wastes and dirty water from household activities such as bathing, showering, laundry, and dishwashing. Once treated, the clean water is safely released to a river, lake, or stream in your community. When other items – including household chemicals – are sent to the WWTP, they can harm the treatment process and increase the overall cost

of wastewater treatment. Some chemicals may pass through the plant and be released to a waterway in your community, potentially harming human health and aquatic life.

Some Indiana communities have combined sewer overflow (CSO) systems which convey both wastewater and storm water to the wastewater treatment plant through a single pipe. During periods of heavy rain, CSOs may release untreated wastewater directly into your local rivers, lakes and streams. This is an even greater threat to human health and the environment.



Guidelines to Follow

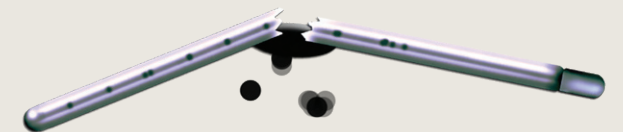
Keep mercury out of the sink.

Fever thermometers are the most common household items that contain mercury.

- Search your home for items containing mercury, and tag them properly.
- Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance; contact information is available at www.IndianaHHW.org.
- Properly manage a mercury spill.
 - ▶ Do **not** vacuum mercury;
 - ▶ Do **not** rinse it down the sink;
 - ▶ Do follow the mercury spill guidance at www.idem.IN.gov/4246.htm ;
 - ▶ Call IDEM at (800) 451-6027.

Collect fats, oils and grease from food products.

- Store in plastic or glass jars with screw on lids.
- Dispose of collected items with your trash.
- For large quantities, contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance, contact information is available at www.IndianaHHW.org.





Guidelines to Follow

Keep all medications (liquids and solids) out of the water supply.

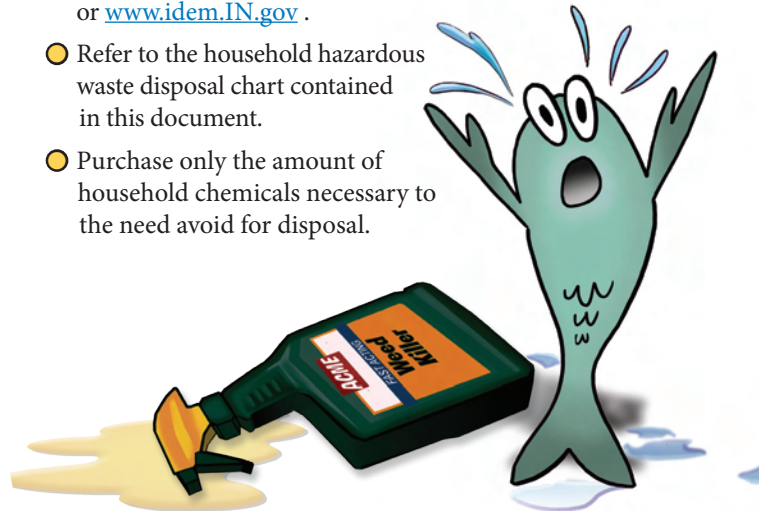
Do not dispose of unwanted medications by pouring them down a drain or flushing them down a toilet. Many medications cannot be removed by wastewater treatment plants. Some of them even damage the treatment system.

- Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance. Contact information is available at www.IndianaHHW.org.
- If your solid waste management district does not provide collection of medications, follow these steps for disposal in your regular trash:
 - ▶ Dissolve tablets or capsules in the original container with a small amount of water. For liquid medications, add sawdust, kitty litter or flour to the original container;
 - ▶ Remove labels from prescription bottles or completely mark out all patient information;
 - ▶ Put all lids back on the containers tightly and put them in a heavy-duty sealed bag. Tight lids and sealed bags will help keep the medications from leaking out; and
 - ▶ Put the sealed bag in your trash so that it is not visible from outside the trash bag to discourage unintended use.

Properly manage all household products containing chemicals.

Household products that contain hazardous substances become household hazardous waste (HHW) once the consumer no longer has a use for it and disposes of it.

- When in doubt, don't pour it out. Contact your local Indiana solid waste management district for disposal guidance. Contact information is available at www.IndianaHHW.org or www.idem.IN.gov.
- Refer to the household hazardous waste disposal chart contained in this document.
- Purchase only the amount of household chemicals necessary to the need avoid for disposal.



Safe Disposal Guide



This symbol represents products that can be safely poured down the drain with plenty of water. (Homeowners using septic tanks should consider alternate disposal and try to purchase these items sparingly.)



This symbol represents products that can be disposed of in the garbage.



This symbol indicates you should contact your local household hazardous waste (HHW) program for proper disposal instructions.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Chart

Bathroom	Garage/Workshop	Here/There
Alcohol-based lotions	Varnish	Ammunition (Take to police or fire station)
Bathroom cleaners	Windshield washer solution	Batteries, alkaline
Disinfectants	Wood preservative	Batteries, mercury-containing
Permanent lotions		Batteries, rechargeable
Hair relaxers		Dry cleaning solvents
Medicine		Fiberglass epoxy
Nail polish		Gun cleaning solvents
Nail polish remover		Lighter fluid
Thermometers (with mercury)		Moth balls
Toilet bowl cleaner		Photographic chemicals
Tub and tile cleaner		Septic tank degreasers
		Shoe polish
		Smoke alarms (Return to manufacturer)
		Swimming pool chemicals
		Thermostats (mercury ampule inside)
Garage/Workshop	Kitchen	
Antifreeze	Aerosol cans-empty	
Auto body filler	Aerosol cans-full	
Batteries, auto	Ammonia-based cleaners	
Brake fluid	Drain cleaners	
Car wax with solvent	Fats, oils and grease	
Diesel fuel	Floor care products	
Fuel oil	Furniture polish	
Gasoline	Metal polish	
Glue (solvent based)	Oven cleaner	
Glue (water based)		
Kerosene		
Metal polish with solvent		
Mineral spirits		
Motor oil		
Paint-latex, dried hard		
Paint-latex, still liquid		
Paint-oil based		
Paint-auto		
Paint brush cleaner w/solvent		
Paint brush cleaner w/TSP*		
Paint thinner		
Paint stripper		
Primer		
Rust remover		
Switches (potentially containing mercury)		
Transmission fluid		
Turpentine		

*Trisodium phosphate