

- For seasonal residents, consider taking your household hazardous wastes back home with you to your primary residence.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE CHARACTERISTICS & SAFE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To avoid the potential risks associated with household hazardous waste, it is important that you always monitor the use, storage and disposal of these household products safely. Below are some tips for you to follow in your own home:

- Never store hazardous products in food containers.
- Keep them in their original containers and never remove the labels.
- Never mix leftover HHW with other products. If FLAMMABLE OR IGNITABLE, the product might catch fire. If EXPLOSIVE OR REACTIVE, it can explode if exposed to heat, sudden shock or pressure.
- Use the appropriate personal protective equipment when using HHW. If the product is TOXIC OR POISONOUS, it can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed or inhaled.
- If the product is CORROSIVE OR CAUSTIC, the product or its vapors can burn you or deteriorate the surface of a material.

## SAFER SUBSTITUTES FOR HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

Whenever possible, substitute a safer alternative for a hazardous product. Here are some suggestions that use basic less-hazardous household ingredients:

**All-Purpose Cleaner:** Mix 1 gallon water, ¼ cup ammonia, ¼ cup vinegar, and 1 tbsp baking soda.

**Oven Cleaner:** Mix 3 tbsp of baking soda with 1 cup warm water. Rub gently with steel wool. A dish of ammonia left in the oven overnight will soften burn spills.

**Tub & Tile Cleaner:** Use ½ cup borax and 1 gallon water.

**Window cleaner:** Mix 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/8 cup of vinegar with 1 qt of warm water and wipe dry with old newspaper.

**Drain Cleaner:** ¼ cup baking soda in drain followed by ½ cup of vinegar. Cover drain and let sit for 15 min. Follow it with 2 qt of boiling water.

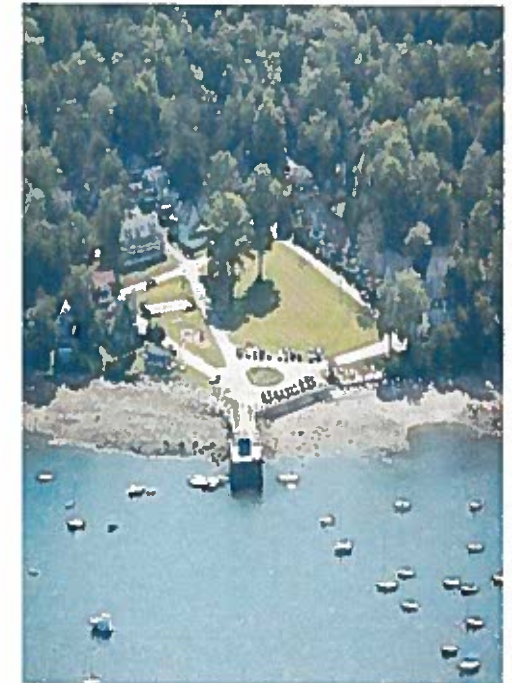


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IT'S YOUR BAY. KEEP THE TOXINS OUT!

DON'T FLUSH THEM DOWN THE SEWER.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES



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# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

## WHAT IS A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Household hazardous wastes are leftover household chemicals that if poured down the drain or flushed down a toilet can upset the operation of sewage treatment plants, foul settled sludge, limit sludge disposal options, and adversely affect marine life when they pass through into the receiving waters of a bay.

Today trace amounts of pharmaceuticals (prescriptions and other medicines) are also being discovered in our nation's surface and underground waterways due to people improperly disposing of them into the sewers.

Toxic household chemicals such as paints, paint thinners, household cleaners, solvents, pool chemicals, adhesives, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, personal care products, grease, antifreeze, gasoline and oil are just a few of the HHWs that are commonly found in the home.

This pamphlet has been prepared by the NVC as a requirement of the Maine DEP and EPA to provide NVC residents with information on how to reduce and properly dispose of household hazardous wastes.

## YOUR NVC SEWER SYSTEM

The Northport Village Corporation operates a sewage treatment plant that serves the core village. The system includes several miles of underground piping, pumping stations, septic tanks and a single port ocean

outfall pipe. The plant is located adjacent to the municipal wharf.

The wastewater flows through the treatment plant by gravity and is distributed into three trains of septic tanks. Together with the biological action of the bacteria and microbes, the solids are settled out and the organics are reduced to water and carbon dioxide. After leaving the septic tanks, the wastewater flow is then measured, disinfected and finally discharged into the Penobscot Bay via an ocean outfall pipe. Settled sludge is pumped out, stabilized and applied to the land. Samples of the wastewater are taken daily and tested to ensure that the final effluent meets state and federal effluent limitation guidelines.

It is in and after the septic tanks where the presence of HHWs if flushed down the sewer, can interfere with solids and organic removal, limit sludge disposal options, and carry over into the bay to potentially harm its ecosystems.



## OPTIONS TO FLUSHING DRUGS OR HHWs TO THE SEWER

The options of reduction, reuse, recycle and disposal are the preferred order in EPA's waste management hierarchy to safely managing household hazardous waste. The

information that follows can help you determine which method might work best for you. The three "R"s:

### REDUCTION

- Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Buy what you need and use it up for what it is intended.
- Learn about alternative products without hazardous ingredients for common household needs.

### REUSE

- Leftover materials can be shared with neighbors or donated to charities, business or govt agencies.

### RECYCLE

- Consider returning expired or unused pharmaceuticals to your pharmacy or doctor's office.
- Participate with used oil, battery, inkjet cartridge and other hazardous product recycling centers.

### DISPOSAL OPTIONS

- Read the label on the containers of HHW products and follow the instructions for proper disposal and spill clean-up procedures.
- Rather than discarding your HHW in the trash, look for an alert from your NVC or check with your local town for the next HHW collection day.