

Protect our River

# Be Pesticide Wise

Homeowners and gardeners often use pesticides and fertilizers on lawns and garden beds. These chemicals can pollute local streams and waterways.

## Help prevent pollution:

- Choose to use the least toxic product possible
- Buy only what you need
- Keep fertilizers and pesticides in their original containers
- Read and follow instructions for use

Handle products carefully:

- To avoid dangerous reactions, never mix products
- Securely seal all containers
- Use a leak-proof container, not a plastic bag, to secure a leaking product container



## Dispose of extra chemicals:

- Use up stored products before purchasing more
- Give unused products to other responsible gardeners to use
- Unwanted or banned chemicals can be taken to Metro's hazardous waste facilities at:

Metro South Transfer Station –  
2001 Washington Street, Oregon City

## Dispose of empty containers and bags:

- Triple-rinse plastic, glass or foil lined containers. Use the rinse water as regular strength pesticide, following label instructions
- Wrap empty containers in newspaper and dispose of in garbage
- Fertilizer packaging without "weed" or "weed killer" on product can be disposed of in garbage without rinsing and wrapping

## Recycling Resources:

Metro Recycling – 503.234.3000  
[www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling)  
Outside the Metro tri-county area – 1.800.732.9253

## Parting with Pesticides

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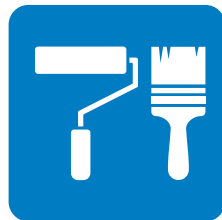
## What's hazardous at home?

Common products used in our homes and yards can harm people, pets, fish, wildlife and the health of our waterways. They contain potentially dangerous chemicals that when used or disposed of improperly, can pose significant hazards to human health and the environment.

Common hazardous products include:



Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and poisons



Paints and stains



Solvents and thinners



Aerosol spray products



Fuels, automotive fluids and antifreeze



Household cleaners and disinfectants

## Check the label

These products will contain "signal words" on their labels such as:

- Caution = low toxicity
- Warning = moderate toxicity
- Danger - high toxicity

These products can be corrosive, flammable, toxic, poisonous, combustible, or explosive.

Reading labels before purchasing and using a product is essential!



## Protect our drinking water:

Pesticides are now found regularly in the Clackamas River water, a drinking water source for over 350,000 people in Clackamas and Washington Counties.

To keep our water safe, no hazardous materials should ever be poured or dumped down the sink, into the toilet, on the ground, down a sewer or street drain.

**Once in the water, many pesticides cannot be detected or removed.**



## Resources:

Clackamas County - [www.clackamas.us/recycling](http://www.clackamas.us/recycling)

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) - [www.conservationsdistrict.org](http://www.conservationsdistrict.org)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides)

Metro - [www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living)

National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University - <http://npic.orst.edu>

Oregon Department of Agriculture - [www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/pages/disposal.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/pages/disposal.aspx)

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - [www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/index.htm)

Oregon State University County Extension Office - <http://extension.oregonstate.edu>