

### Hank Heron Wants You

To Stop and Think Before
You Buy
Household Hazardous
Products!

Products like cleaning agents, herbicides, pesticides, paints, automobile fluids and batteries contain toxic ingredients. When these products are used or disposed of improperly, they can be harmful to humans, pets and the environment.

# Just What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Automotive Products



- Oil and gas
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Transmission fluid
- Solvents and degreasers
- Batteries
- Paint and Paint Products
  - Oil and Latex based paint
  - Varnish/stain remover, strippers, finishing products
  - Thinners
  - Wood preservatives
- Pesticides
- Herbicides

- Insecticides
- Fungicides
- Household Cleaning Products
  - Kitchen, bathroom cleaners
  - Furniture polishes and waxes
  - Rug and upholstery cleaners
  - All purpose cleaners
- Batteries
  - Nicad
  - Lead Acid
  - Small "Button" batteries
  - Rechargeable
- Photo and Pool Chemicals



### THINK BEFORE YOU BUY!

In 2009, Butler **County managed** nearly 82,512 pounds or 41 tons of household hazardous wastes. Your tax dollars help provide this service. When you purchase only what you need, you save your tax dollars!

- Buy only what you need. More is not better if you do not use it up.
- Read the label. The label will tell you how much product you need per square foot or yard.
- Follow directions on the label carefully.
- Compare product labels to select the least potentially hazardous product that will best meet your needs. "Danger" or "Poison" means highly toxic or extremely flammable. "Warning" or "Caution" means moderately or slightly toxic. Be aware that "non-toxic" has no federal regulatory definition. It is only an advertising word.
- For paint, measure the area you plan to paint and know how many square feet you have, then when you go to the store, read the label to see how much paint you need.

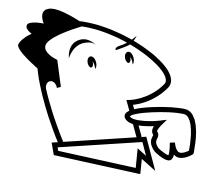
#### If you have extra:

- Share leftovers with friends, neighbors, relatives, schools, shelters, religious organizations, etc.
- Visit your household hazardous waste facility to dispose of any excess properly.

### Think Before You Buy!

Be aware when you purchase products that list words such as:

"Danger", "Poison", "Corrosive", "Caustic", "Volatile", "Flammable", "Caution" or "Warning".



Some household products require special attention in their use, storage and disposal. These products we use every day are "hazardous". A product is hazardous if it is:



TOXIC poisonous or capable of causing acute illness



IGNITABLE/ FLAMMABLE ignites and/or burns easily



CORROSIVE eats through other materials



REACTIVE can explode if exposed to heat, air, water or shock

Check the label to see if a product is hazardous. If it says WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER, or POISON it may be hazardous.

### **HHW and Our Environment**

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) can become non-point source pollutants if misused or handled improperly:

- If excess HHW is poured down the drain in a house that uses a septic system, it has the potential to contaminate groundwater. If you have a lagoon, it could kill the bacteria that break down the waste, causing anaerobic conditions.
- If excess HHW is disposed of in the trash, it winds up in the landfill and can pose a threat to surface and groundwater sources. In addition, improperly disposed waste could cause injury to sanitation workers.
  - If excess HHW is disposed of on the ground or through storm drains, it can wash into nearby streams, or percolate down to groundwater and threaten water quality.

# What Can I do to Help Protect the Environment?

- Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plant species that are resistant to insects and disease.
  - Use non-phosphate laundry detergents.
  - Purchase or make your own non-toxic household cleaning products.
    - Use rechargeable batteries whenever possible.
    - Purchase latex paint instead of oil-based paint whenever possible.
      - Never pour antifreeze down any drain.
- Clean up oil leaks and spills immediately and thoroughly with cat litter or other absorbent materials.
- Find a household hazardous waste facility to dispose of any unused product.

### Pre-Purchase Safety Checklist

- ✓ Do I really need this product?
  - ✓ Is there a safer alternative?
- ✓ Have I checked for signal words? "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", "Caution".
- ✓ Does this product require safety equipment?
  - ✓ Am I buying more than I need?
- ✓ Can I safely dispose of the excess, or do I need to take it to a household hazardous waste collection site?
  - ✓ Can I safely store this product in my home?



## Tips for Storing and Using Household Hazardous Waste

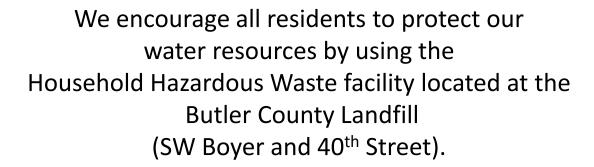
## Remember, Stop and Think Before You Purchase Household Hazardous Products!



- Read the Label!
- Buy only what you need.More is not better if you do not use it up.

#### If you have extra:

- > Share leftovers with friends, neighbors, relatives, schools, shelters, religious organizations, etc.
- ➤ Visit your household hazardous waste facility to dispose of any excess that you can't use up or share.





The site is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Saturday 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Household limit is 5 gallons or 40 pounds.

Small Quantity Generators (ie. those who generate waste as part of their business) should call the Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste Site at 316-660-7464.

For More Information, Contact:
Butler County Solid Waste Coordinator
316-322-4127