

# BEST PRACTICES



## 5 Spring Cleaning Tips: Keep Kids, Pets & Local Waterways

### 1. Get Rid of Unused Hazardous Household Products

Are you thinking about cleaning out your house or garage this spring? If so, you may have "hazardous" household products that should NOT be put in the garbage. The average American household has dozens of hazardous products including oil paints and thinners, solvents, used motor oil and some cleaning supplies.

Household hazardous products can harm the environment, people and pets if they are not properly stored and disposed of. Follow these simple guidelines

to keep our families, pets and waterways safe:

- Store in original container. Do not remove the label. Never combine products.
- Keep all hazardous products out of the reach of children and pets.
- Store hazardous products in a large plastic tote to contain any spills or leaks.
- Follow the label instructions for cleaning up any spilled or leaked products.
- Take unused hazardous products and any materials used to clean up spills to HazoHouse.

### 2. Clean Your Carpets at Least Once Per Year

Cleaning your carpets at least once per year can eliminate pollutants, prevent mold growth and reduce allergens from dust mites. When cleaning your carpet, make sure to dispose of the dirty wash water properly. Never dump it down a storm drain.

If you are connected to the sanitary sewer system, you can dump the wash water down a sink, toilet, bathtub or shower drain. Make sure to filter larger debris to prevent drain clogs.

**If you have a septic system, do NOT dump dirty wash water down a drain! It can harm your septic system. Instead, dump the waste water on your lawn or flower gardening beds. Make sure you do NOT dump it over your drainfield.**

### 3. Pressure Washing Buildings: Test, Protect and Clean-up

If you have an older home, test your paint first to find out if it contains lead or heavy metals, which may require that paint flakes be disposed of at HazoHouse.

Before pressure washing, cover the ground with tarps to capture paint flakes, and direct wash water into a grassy or graveled area to keep contaminants from washing into storm drains or roadside conveyance ditches.



#### Is This Product Hazardous?

Look for these key words on the label:

**POISON** ☠ **DANGER**  
**WARNING** ☠ **CAUTION**

#### Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste at HazoHouse

2418 Hogum Bay Rd. NE, Lacey

Open Fri. – Tues., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE to residential customers.

For more information, contact

Thurston County HazoHouse at

360-786-5494 or go to

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/solidwaste/hazardous/haz-home.htm>

*TIP: A shop vac can be used to vacuum up paint flakes.*

#### 4. Cleaning Driveways and Sidewalks: Sweep or Use Only Water in a Pressure Washer

Whenever possible, sweep driveways and sidewalks to remove debris instead of pressure washing. Dispose of dirt and debris in the garbage. Cover spills with kitty litter or other absorbent material and dispose of in the garbage. Take debris to HazoHouse if the spill is a hazardous material.

If you are going to use a pressure washer, sweep first, then use the lowest setting possible. If possible, pressure wash with plain water without soap added. Direct dirty wash water (with or without soap) to a grassy or graveled area away from storm drains to allow the wash water to infiltrate into the ground.

#### 5. Clean Up Pet Waste-Every Dog, Every Doo, Every Time

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and viruses that can make young children sick, pollute our waterways and contaminate shellfish. Bacteria and viruses in pet waste can persist in the soil for a long time. The best way to dispose of pet waste is to scoop it, bag and trash it-every dog, every doo, every time.

**Stream Team can supply you with a FREE pet waste bag dispenser to attach to your leash and FREE signs and durable bag dispensers for qualifying public places such as neighborhood common areas, multi-family housing complexes and other approved community areas.** Contact your local Stream Team Coordinator to find out more information.

*Source: Stream Team News, Spring 2016*