

## Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

### **WATER MATTERS**

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## Spring Cleaning & Old Chemicals

So you're getting ready to do that chore that no one looks forward to- spring cleaning. Evicting that dust bunny from its comfortable home, finally putting away those Christmas tins, making room under the sink for a better collection of household cleansers- these are practices that come along with a clean and orderly home. But what do you do with all the leftover household cleansers, paints and batteries that have made your home clean, cheery and bright?

Most chemicals, paint and batteries can't be put in the trash and the liquids *definitely* can not be poured down your sink. Pouring these chemicals down the sink could offset the delicate balance of microorganisms at the Water Pollution Control Plant that digest our waste; we depend on these tiny sewage-eaters to treat our waste and put clean water back into the rivers. And putting *any* hazardous liquids or solids in the trash could cause leakage of toxic substances into our groundwater.

So you know what *not* to do... but what *can* you do? Batteries can be recycled for free at any Batteries Plus location. Fluorescent bulbs (only 4-foot) can be taken to the Merchandise Pickup Area at Sears for recycling; this keeps mercury from entering our landfills. Latex paint can be left open to dry or absorbed with kitty litter and be put out for regular trash pickup once it's solid. But oil based paint must be recycled at a household hazardous waste recycling facility. Same for household cleansers, solvents, and nail polish removers.

The Allen County Solid Waste District has several events during the year when you can drop off these household chemicals. They can be contacted at 449-7878. If you would like more information about the most common household hazardous wastes found in your home and alternative to using these, you can contact the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality at 484-5848 ext.111.