



U.S. EPA Fact Sheet – June 2011

Pre-Flood Household Hazardous Waste Prevention Check List

During past flooding events in the Midwest the Environmental Protection Agency has partnered with various local, state, and tribal governments to recover certain damaged items to prevent them from entering landfills. The advance notice of the impending flooding allows for time to secure these items so they do not become hazardous wastes.

We realize that there are many important issues that you need to address prior to the arrival of the flood waters but we hope you will take time to prevent the following list of items from becoming inundated. The US Army Corps of Engineers has developed expected flooding depths (<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/op-e/maps.html>) that can be referenced to determine where the items may need to be moved to prevent inundation (i.e., moving them from lower cupboards to the second floor).

The following list shows common household items which contain potentially hazardous ingredients that might be found in garages, basements or other storage space within the home:

Cleaning Products

- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Wood and metal cleaners/polishers
- Toilet cleaners
- Tub, tile, shower cleaners
- Bleach
- Pool chemicals

Indoor Pesticides

- Ant sprays and baits
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Flea repellents and shampoos
- Bug sprays
- Household insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse and rat poisons and baits

Flammable Products

- Propane tanks and other compressed gas cylinders
- Kerosene
- Home heating oil
- Diesel fuel
- Gas/oil mix
- Lighter fluid

Lawn and Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives

Automotive Products

- Motor oil
- Fuel additives
- Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners
- Air conditioning refrigerants
- Starter fluids
- Automotive batteries
- Transmission and brake fluid
- Antifreeze

Workshop/Painting Supplies

- Adhesives and glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel-based paints
- Stains and finishes
- Paint thinners and turpentine
- Paint strippers and removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives and other solvents

Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats/thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Driveway sealer