

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES**

Many pesticides, cleaning products and paints contain toxic chemicals which should not be disposed of with household trash. Use these products up, give them away, or **make an appointment** to drop them off at a household hazardous waste collection site. Drug And Laboratory Disposal, located at 331 Broad Street, Plainwell, provides this service to Gun Plain Township residents at no charge. When you call Drug and Lab (685-9824) during business hours to schedule an appointment, identify yourself as a township resident.

The following substances are accepted: PESTICIDES, WEED KILLERS, CLEANERS & POLISHES, AEROSOLS, WOOD PRESERVATIVES, ASPHALT & ROOFING TAR, OIL BASED PAINT PRODUCTS (THINNERS, SOLVENTS, VARNISH), PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS, MERCURY THERMOMETERS, FLUORESCENT LAMPS AND HOME REPAIR PRODUCTS (GLUE & CEMENT). NO smoke detectors, explosives or latex paints. Water based paints can be solidified with sawdust or kitty litter and safely disposed of with household trash. Only residential materials are accepted free of charge. Drug and Lab can provide information about costs for handling commercial wastes.

### **MERCURY THERMOMETERS**

The Health Department also accepts mercury thermometers for recycling and recommends that all area residents replace these dangerous instruments with safer digital devices. Mercury is a nerve toxin which accumulates in the body and can damage the brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. If mercury spills from a broken thermometer and is not carefully and thoroughly cleaned up, it will continue to evaporate, reaching potentially harmful levels in indoor air. Mercury thermometers may be dropped off at the Health Department any time during business hours; no appointment is required. Wrap thermometers in plastic and place them in a sealed container (such as a disposable plastic jar, bottle or tub) for transport.

### **ELECTRONICS WASTE**

The South Kent County Landfill, at 300 100<sup>th</sup> St., Byron Center, offers free recycling of residential computer, audio and video equipment, including televisions with screens 19" or less. Many electronics contain heavy metals and should not be disposed of with trash. Landfill hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

### **MEDICAL SHARPS**

The Allegan County Health Department sponsors a collection program for medical sharps, such as used syringes and disposable lancets. Improperly discarded medical sharps can injure family members, animals, waste management workers and end up in places where they are a danger to the public, such as our beaches. These sharps are a hazard because they may be contaminated with disease causing bacteria or viruses. County residents can pick up free sharps containers at the Health Department or purchase them at local pharmacies. Full containers, labeled with the resident's name and address, can be brought to the Health Department during business hours, where they will be properly disposed off through the county's regularly scheduled medical waste pick-up.

**Questions? Call Resource Recovery (269) 673-5415.**

