

WaterWatch



Handling Household Hazardous Waste

Poisons, toxins, hazardous chemicals are found just about everywhere: in your neighborhood, in your backyard, in your garage and even in your house. Many common household products contain hazardous materials. During 2005 WaterWatch will be focusing on household hazardous waste (HHW).

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste is any item around your home or workplace that contains hazardous materials. Common items include cleaning materials, pesticides, solvents, paints and stains, and even computers and batteries. Any of these materials have the potential to contaminate water and are dangerous to keep around the house.



Principles of HHW Management

When dealing with HHW, there are three principles to keep in

mind: Use it up; Buy Less; Dispose of it Properly

Use it up

Whenever possible, use up a product or donate it to someone who can. Many items can be reused even if they have been sitting around for a few years, just follow the directions on the label. Some items can be regenerated or recycled such as used motor oils, solvents and car batteries.

Buy Less

Buy the smallest amount of material to get the job done or substitute a less hazardous product. You could also consider splitting the costs with a neighbor, friend or relative if they need to use the same product. For a list of safe alternatives for common HHW, please visit the Utah County Health Department or <http://www.utahcountyonline.com/apps/WebLink/Dept/HEALTHENVIRSERV/SAFEALTE.pdf>

Dispose of it Properly

If you can't use up the entire product or share it with someone else, learn how to properly dispose of it. Consult the label on the

The following Salt Lake County locations accept paints, fuels, pesticides, batteries, antifreeze, oil and yard care chemicals at no cost:

Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Management Facility
6030 W California Avenue (1400 South)
Open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Saturday

Trans Jordan Landfill
10873 S 7200 West
Open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Saturday

In addition, The City of Orem Public Works Department accepts used oil and antifreeze. The facility is located at 955 N 900 West. Open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

package. You can take HHW to Salt Lake Valley facilities (see box for locations) where it will be made available for trading or it will be incinerated.

Take Inventory

The Utah County Health Department suggests that you do an in-

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Ice and Snow Removal

If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

City of Orem Public Works
955 N 900 West
Orem, UT 84057

Phone: 801-229-7500
Fax: 801-229-7599

We're on the Web!
www.orem.org

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ventory of HHW. They suggest that you look in kitchens, laundry rooms, bathrooms, basements and garages for cleaners, art supplies, photo chemicals, automobile fluids, garden chemicals, etc. When you find these items write down the condition (expired, damaged, no longer needed, properly marked, in original container) as well as what actions taken. For more information see <http://www.utahcountyonline.com/apps/WebLink/Dept/HEALTHENVIRSERV/HAZINVEN.pdf>

Source:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality, "A Guide to Household Hazardous Waste", 2002.
Utah County Division of Environmental Health website, www.utahcountyonline.com/Dept/HealthEnvir/Index.asp

While some of us may love the winter weather, others dread the chores that come with it. Snow and ice removal is one of those tasks that can be grueling, daunting and difficult. It may be tempting to abandon the shovels and just try dropping some snow and ice melting chemicals and forget about it. Deicing chemicals can't replace old fashioned hard work, but they make the job easier.

How Deicers Work

Deicers lower the melting point of ice, turning it into a brine solution. When this brine makes contact with concrete or asphalt below, it flows outward and breaks the bond between the ice and the hard surface. Then, using a shovel and flat hoe, ice removal should be easier.

Here are some tips for purchasing the right ice melter.

Types of Deicers

Deicers are usually made of one or more of the following ingredients: sodium chloride (rock salt), urea, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, and calcium chloride.

Sodium Chloride

Rock salt is general effective in warmer temperatures (20-32°F). It can cause damage to concrete surfaces, especially if it is used in too high a concentration and is not cleared away quickly. Too much rock salt can be harmful to plants and lawns.

Urea, Potassium Chloride & Magnesium Chloride

Urea, potassium chloride and magnesium chloride are fertilizers

that are also used for melting ice. They are safer for pets and plants than rock salt. Urea is effective to about 15°F, potassium chloride to about 12°F, potassium chloride to about 5°F. Because urea is not a chloride, it does less damage to concrete.

Calcium Chloride

Calcium chloride is the fastest and most powerful ice melter. It can be used in temperatures as low as -25°F. It works at so low temperatures because when it converts to liquid form, it gives off its own heat. Calcium chloride is the most expensive of the common household ice melting products.

Tips for Using Deicers

- Ice melters only break up the ice. After applying, allow 30 minutes for them to work then remove ice with a snow shovel and a flat hoe.
- Spread deicers evenly over the surface. Too much in one place is a waste of the product.
- Add sand, ash, cinders or kitty litter to your ice melter to give extra traction as you clear the ice.
- Get a good heavy mat for guests to clean their shoes on as all deicers can be tracked indoors.

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