

Risk Assessment Worksheets

Household Hazardous Wastes

Assessment Worksheet 1 - Product Purchase, Selection, and Use

The assessment worksheet below will help you identify potential environmental risks related to your use of hazardous products around the house. For each question indicate your risk level in the right-hand column. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation. Choose the response that best fits. When finished, turn to the Household Hazardous Wastes Action Worksheet on page 5-10, and record your medium and high-risk practices. The goal is to lower your risks. Use the BMP recommendations in this section to help you decide how to best reduce pollution.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Product selection	I always read labels, understand signal words, and respect the health or environmental hazards that labels describe. I use less hazardous products when possible.	I don't read labels or don't understand what they mean, but I use a "common sense" approach to safety.	I never read labels. I purchase products without considering what the product is made of or how it will be used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Quantities purchased	I buy only what is needed for a specific job. I use up most of the product during the season of purchase. I dispose of excess products at a county waste drop-off site.	I buy excess product, but I have safe and accessible storage.	I buy more than is needed, then purchase additional products without checking on current supplies.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Safety precautions	I follow label instructions and take recommended precautions against exposure, like wearing protective clothing (gloves and safety goggles). I never mix products.	I occasionally read the label. I take precautions based on my knowledge of the product. I occasionally mix products for specific cleaning tasks, but refer to label first.	I never follow label instructions and take no precautions—even when recommended. If one product doesn't work, I add another without checking safety precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Toxic alternatives	I use alternatives to toxic materials whenever I can.		I don't use alternatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Pesticides	I use non-chemical pest control. I choose pest control products according to the label and properly store, handle, and dispose of them.	When solving pest problems, I do not practice prevention or explore non-chemical options.	I do not handle pesticides as directed on the label. Pesticides are applied near my well, or at the edge of surface water.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

Assessment Worksheet 2 - Product Disposal

When finished, turn to the Household Hazardous Wastes Action Worksheet on page 5-10 and record your medium and high-risk practices.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Recycling hazardous product containers	I triple-rinse empty yard and garden pesticide containers and include rinse water in yard and garden management. I recycle containers.	I generally leave my empty containers in the garage because I don't know what to do with them.	I burn hazardous materials, releasing metals, acids, and chlorine compounds. I spread materials from the burn barrel over my property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Batteries	I recycle batteries, or take them to a county hazardous waste drop-off site. I trade-in my used car or boat battery at an auto or tire store.	I dispose of used batteries in a county landfill.	Used batteries are stored or buried on my property near a well or waterway. Small batteries (e.g. flashlight) are burned with my trash.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Paint and solvents	I share leftovers. Unused products containing mercury, pesticides, or hazardous solvents are taken to a county waste drop-off site.	I allow liquids to evaporate away. Sludge or leftover products are placed in normal trash flow, which goes to a county landfill.	I dump leftover products on the ground near a well or waterway.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Drips and spills	I contain spills on paved area with absorbent material (kitty litter), and then dispose of it at a landfill.	I don't bother containing drips and spills; occasionally I flush them onto my property.	I don't do anything to contain drips and spills. I frequently flush them onto my property, where they can infiltrate into groundwater.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Pesticides	I don't use pesticides.	I use pesticides for weeds in my lawn, but I follow the label and don't apply within 25 feet of surface water.	I spray right up to the water's edge. I didn't realize this could be harmful.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Antifreeze, Gasoline, and motor oil	I take left over or unused antifreeze to the county dump or an automotive shop. I burn used oil for heat in an approved space heater.	Containers with leftover product are stored in my garage on a raised platform.	I pour extra oil, antifreeze, and fuel in the ditch next to the road.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

