

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29

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HB 2772 - Risks posed by Household Hazardous Waste

3/4/19

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can pose risks to the environment or public health during use, storage, or disposal. Specific ways that this can occur, along with some remedies for prevention of these risks, include:

- **Improper use of hazardous products.** Use contrary to label directions or applicable laws and regulations: improper quantities, improper application methods, use for the wrong purpose, etc.
- **Proper use of hazardous products.** Use following all label precautions and applicable laws and regulations may also have an adverse impact on the environment or public health.
- **Storage.** Storage in or around the home, in anticipation of future use or disposal at a later date.
- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal.** Disposal into residential garbage can or dumpster destined for MSW facility.
- **Improper disposal.** Hazardous waste that is buried, abandoned, put into a Construction and Demolition (C&D) landfill, poured down the drain, etc. (note: disposal down the drain is proper for some products, most water-based or water-soluble cleaners, e.g.).

Risk can be to people, the environment, or property. The target can be:

- In the **home** – occupants, pets, structures, contents
- **MSW workers/customers** – drivers; transfer station, MRF and landfill personnel, also customers using the facilities
- **MSW equipment/operations** – damage to MSW vehicles & facilities, increased operating costs
- **Publicly owned treatment works (POTW)** – damage to sewage treatment plants equipment/operations or increased operating costs
- **The environment** – contaminants in the air, water or soil and resultant effects on plants, animals and the food supply

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Specific hazards, and where the risk occurs

Possible hazards from use or storage in the home:	Risk to:
Home fires started or exacerbated by hazardous products stored in the home	Home
Poisonings and injuries from accidents (especially involving children) from hazardous products in the home	Home
Chronic health problems exacerbated (e.g. asthma, allergies) or other indoor air pollution effects due to storage of hazardous products	Home
Runoff from pesticides & fertilizers applied outdoors	Environment
Possible hazards from MSW disposal:	
Injuries to solid waste workers encountering HHW during transportation, processing, or disposal of MSW	MSW workers/customers
Release of hazardous vapors to the atmosphere during MSW disposal or in landfills, including during landfill fires	Environment
Damage to MSW equipment	MSW Equipment/operations
Landfill leachate more hazardous	MSW Equipment/operations
Emissions due to MSW incineration of HHW	Environment
Ash contamination due to MSW incineration of HHW	MSW Equipment/operations
Possible hazards from improper disposal:	
Damage to POTW's from HHW disposed of into the sewer system	POTW Equipment/operations

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Surface water contamination due to waste passing through POTW	Environment
Damage to septic systems from HHW disposed of into septic systems	Home
Soil & groundwater contamination from HHW disposed of into septic systems	Environment
Contamination of soil or groundwater due to HHW in C&D landfills	Environment
Surface water and groundwater contamination due to improper disposal by burial, release to storm sewers, abandonment	Environment
Effects on plants, animals, or the food supply from HHW received from air, water or soil	Environment