

Household Hazardous Materials

March, 2011

As many of you may know, there are many household hazardous materials that are not to be put into the trash. Some of these are outdated and now banned materials, such as DDT. Others are useful materials but ones that, if not totally used up, can seep down into the groundwater. The landfill barriers should stop this but it is not a perfect barrier.

Many years ago most counties in Iowa joined various agencies to collect such hazardous materials. Guthrie Co. did not belong to such agencies due to the high cost. For our small population the Supervisors did not feel the cost was justified. However, in 2009 Guthrie Co. had the opportunity to join with Cass County's program through a grant that Cass Co. was developing.

So now we are able to take household hazardous materials. Examples of such items would include: drain cleaners, metal polishes, disinfectants, paint remover, thinners, oil-based paints, wood preservatives, fertilizers, rodent poisons, moth balls, photography chemicals, oil, and many other such items. Examples of items NOT taken would include: latex paint (not hazardous), asbestos, ammunition/explosive compounds, and radioactive materials.

The procedure to bring such materials to the Transfer Station is relatively simple. First, call the Transfer Station (641-747-3764) to make an appointment. The office manager will ask you questions about what you have, etc. and set up a time for the materials we will accept. When you bring the materials out, they are weighed and logged in. *No fee is charged.* These materials are then stored in a small building across from the weigh scales over the season. **One other point to remember. Due to freezing issues, this program is only available from April 1 through Sept. 30 of each year.**

This is really for HOUSEHOLD materials only. So businesses and farmers are not really covered under this program. If only small quantities of a material are involved, we may be able to take the materials for a small fee. The fee is set based on the quantity and what the material is. Larger amounts of materials and certain very highly hazardous chemicals cannot be accepted. Feel free to check with us and we'll try to work with you on this.