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Hazardous waste: the hidden monster

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Hazardous wastes are monsters that contaminate water, soil and air.

To the human body, hazardous wastes can enter the body and cause serious health issues.

“Simply defined, a hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment.” said an EPA website on the issue.

Common wastes include household cleaners, personal care products and cosmetics, adhesives, floor and oven cleaners, arts and craft supplies, pool chemicals, herbicides and pesticides, coal tar-based driveway sealer, car wax and polish, mixed motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paints, solvents and sealants, among others.

The average household contains 20 pounds of hazardous materials.

Exposure to these items can headaches, tremors, weakness, cancer and birth defects.

According to an Environmental Working Group study in 2004, the average American baby is born with 287 chemicals in their bloodstream, caused by the use of hazardous products during pregnancy.

To limit the amount of toxins in your household, purchase fewer products, and borrow others from a friend.

Baking soda and vinegar can be used to cure most household messes, and have no harmful effects on your body or the environment.

A walkthrough of your house will reveal several of these chemicals which need to be disposed of.

Collection days for the Lakes Region will be 8:30 a.m. to noon on July 30 and Aug. 6.

Call 279-8171 for more information.

