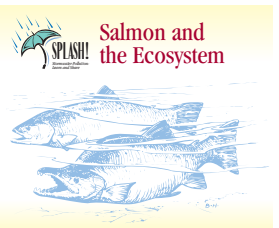


Lily's Pad

an educational page for kids of all ages!



Hi folks! I'm Lily, the Pacific chorus frog, and I help the City of Eugene teach people about stormwater in our community. Stormwater flows directly into our rivers and streams, and it is up to each of us to keep that water from picking up nasty pollution on the way.



Teachers: For more information about *SPLASH! Stormwater Learn and Share*, and *Salmon and the Ecosystem*, call 541-682-2739.

Watch out for those trouble-making hazardous wastes!



Remember Mr Yuk –that ugly face sticker you may have seen on chemicals around the house to warn kids not to drink them? The problem is that when we use these cleaners, soaps, sprays and solvents in our homes they don't stay in their bottles. They may actually end up in our waterways one of two ways—as we use them (especially outdoors) or when we throw them away (if we have leftovers we don't want).

Where are these toxic tricksters?

You can find them in your garage, kitchen, bathroom and garden shed. How will you recognize them? Look for the following words on the product labels:

Toxic: can cause illness or injury

Corrosive: Can cause burns to your skin

Irritant: liquid or fumes can cause irritation to skin, eyes and nose

Flammable/Combustible: is easily ignited

The following words on a label indicate the level of harm a product might do:

Caution or Warning: mild to moderately hazardous or toxic, can cause temporary health problems such as itching or vomiting

Danger: More severely dangerous, can cause serious, permanent health effects such as ulcers or burns on your skin

Poison: highly toxic, can be fatal if ingested.

How should you handle them?

Hazardous materials are pretty safe as long as they are sealed in their bottles or cans. But when we open them up, we may be stirring up trouble unless we follow some common-sense rules:

1) Read the directions. Look for instructions for safe use (wearing protective gloves, ventilation, keep away from flames) and follow them.

2) Do not mix products. Bleach and ammonia give off a toxic gas when combined, and many other products can react in unpredictable (and dangerous) ways.

So now I'm safe, but how about our local fish?

Experts who study water quality test our local waterways for household chemicals in streams and rivers. You and your family can help keep pollutants away from fish and other aquatic life by remembering a few simple rules:

1) If using a hazardous material outside, **DO NOT** wash waste down storm drains. Use absorbent materials to pick up accidental spills of paint or automotive fluids.

2) Wash cars without soap and skip the shiny tire spray, or use a commercial car wash that filters and recycles wash water.

3) Keep pesticides and fertilizers from running into the streets by using a s little of them as possible. Lawn and garden products are expensive, so by not wasting any you save money too!

Don't trash them!

Simply throwing hazardous waste into the trash may lead to the chemicals seeping into ground water when they reach the dump. You may be able to wrap some mostly-empty containers carefully and put them in the trash can, but others need to be poured down the drain or be dried out in their containers before disposal. The really bad ones must be handled by special waste experts. Call Lane County Waste Management at 541-682-3111 with questions and for specific drop-off times, or visit their web site at www.co.lane.or.us for more information.

Before you toss, another option is to donate or share the leftover product with a friend. Leftover paint might be welcome at the high school drama department. Garden fertilizers or sprays might be a great gift for a neighbor who is putting in a new flower bed. Who knows, you might make a new friend by sharing, and you may even see a healthy fish jump for joy!



Permission to use Mr. Yuk was provided by the Pittsburgh Poison Center, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.