



Household Hazardous Liquids and Source Water Protection

Some common household products contain liquids that can be harmful to our health and drinking water.



Ontario's Clean Water Act identified two groups of hazardous liquids that may put our drinking water sources at risk: dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) and organic solvents.

- A DNAPL is a liquid that is denser than water and has minimal solubility in water. These substances are a concern because of their ability to sink to the bottom of an aquifer and contaminate large amounts of groundwater.
- An organic solvent is a substance that dissolves or disperses other organic substances.
- These hazardous liquids may be in products you use regularly, such as: paints; stains and coatings; paint removers or strippers; wood treatment products; nail polish removers; spot removers and rug-cleaning fluids; adhesives; batteries; printing inks; cleaning and degreasing products and pesticides.

A spill or leak of hazardous liquids could contaminate our drinking water sources, cause environmental and health issues, and can be difficult and costly to clean up.

There are many products available that are safer for your health and the environment.

- Read the label. Choose products without warnings that the product could be harmful.
- Look for products containing naturally occurring or plant-based materials.
- Choose water-based, heavy duty detergent cleaners.
- Choose solvents that are not made from petroleum.
- Store hazardous liquids in sealed containers with secure lids.
- Do not dispose of hazardous liquids in your garbage, down the drain or to storm sewers.



Visit durham.ca/WMF to find your nearest municipal disposal site for hazardous materials.

The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department
If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact
905-668-7711 ext. 3488 durham.ca/SWP

