



Lewis County Solid Waste Utility

Educating our Communities about Moderate Risk Waste

Presented by

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Why Educate?

- **The average person lacks sufficient knowledge in the safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals.**

The Dangers of Toxics

- **2 Million accidental poisonings are reported each year to 61 poison control centers.**
- **(source: poisonprevention.org)**

Who is the most vulnerable?

- **90% of reported poisonings are in the home.**
- **The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years old.**
- **Source: [poisonprevention .org](http://poisonprevention.org)**

Common Misconceptions

- **Consumers believe they need to use toxic chemicals to keep their homes clean and germ free.**
- **Consumers believe that only toxic chemicals will give them a beautiful lawn or garden free of bugs, weeds and disease.**

Common Bad Habits

- **Consumers who don't have a regular cleaning program in the home rely on toxic products for a quick cleaning job.**
- **Consumers don't perform regular work in the yard to prevent the growth of weed, bug and disease populations.**

The Problems with Consumerism

- **“Extreme marketing” pushes consumers to buy something that they would not normally buy or do not need.**
- **Advertising encourages the consumer to use the latest product because it works better, faster or with less effort.**

Questions????????????????

Our Educational Goal

- **Create a paradigm shift with consumer buying habits that results in the choice of safer alternative products over dangerous toxic products.**

Our Educational Method

- **Focus on alternatives:**
 - **Safe products**
 - **Safe procedures**

Our Educational Method

- **Inform consumers that safe, non-toxic alternative products do work.**
- **Give examples of a safe alternative product for a given toxic product.**

Examples

For ammonia-based cleaners....

Use a vinegar, salt, and water mixture

•For oil-based paints or stains...

Use latex paints. Cleanup is easier too!!

•For fertilizers and lawn and garden chemicals...

Use organic fertilizers and compost, use a soap spray for insects and weed by hand.

•For bleach-based cleansers...

Use baking soda and a scratch pad

Examples

- For oven cleaners...

Use liquid soap, borax and water

- For drain cleaners/uncloggers

Use vinegar and baking soda followed by hot water

For more examples, see our website at:

[www.co.lewis.us/community development/swu/safe/safe.html](http://www.co.lewis.us/community%20development/swu/safe/safe.html)

Our Educational Method

- **Inform consumers that non-toxic alternative products are:**
 - **Safer for the family.**
 - **Better for the environment.**

Our Educational Method

- **Demonstrate that safe alternative products work.**
- **Seeing is believing!**
 - Remember the Amway at-home demonstrations and comparisons.
 - Keep the demos simple.
 - Allow someone to try it.

Our Educational Method

- **Discuss and or demonstrate the dangers of incompatible toxic chemicals.**
 - **Bleach and Ammonia**
 - **Toilet Bowl cleaners and Lye**
 - **Pool acids and Pool alkalis**

Questions????????????????

Booking a Presentation

- **Make a list of:**
 - **Schools**
 - **Business Groups**
 - **Civic Groups**

Asking for the Opportunity

- **Stress the importance of your presentation.**
- **Emphasize that the presentation is short and concise.**
- **Tours of the facility and transfer station/landfill can greatly enhance the benefit of the presentation.**

Making the Appointment

- **Change your schedule to fit the group's schedule to guarantee a good crowd.**
- **Confirm the appointment a few days before to ensure there is no last minute cancellation.**

Preparation

- **Know your audience and tailor the presentation to their needs.**
- **Review reference materials.**
- **Check facts:**
 - **Up-to date**
 - **Accurate**
 - **Use several sources**

Preparation

- **Assemble all your training aids/tools to ensure you have everything you need.**
- **Arrive at the location early to have plenty of time to set-up.**

Making the Presentation

- **Have Fun!**
- **Keep it light and moving quickly.**

Making the Presentation

- **Pause frequently to check for understanding.**
- **Ask questions and allow the audience to ask questions.**

Follow -up

- **Thank the person who gave you the appointment.**
- **For business groups ask for feedback.**
- **For schools check with the teacher to see if the students understood the presentation.**

Follow -up

- **Make a second appointment at this time if possible.**
- **Ask the contact person for permission to use them as a reference to get other presentation appointments.**

Questions????????????????

Discussion

- **Setting the Appointment**

Discussion

- **Creating the Presentation**

Discussion

- Making the Presentation

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!