

News Release

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For Immediate Release

PROPER DISPOSAL OF TOXIC PESTICIDES PROMISES CLEANER CREEKS AND STREAMS

Improper disposal of toxic chemicals can pollute our local waterways. In complying with the Environmental Protection Agency's agreement to phase-out use of the pesticide diazinon, Sacramento County residents are encouraged to take unused diazinon to the City of Sacramento's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. This service is available by appointment on Fridays and Saturdays, from 8:00am-5:00pm. Call 379-0500 to schedule a drop-off time. The facility is located at 8491 Fruitridge Road, across from the old Army Depot. Businesses wanting to use this facility to dispose of hazardous waste should call 379-0500, extension 209 for additional information.

Water sampling reveals that toxic levels of diazinon are almost always present in our creeks and streams. Hazardous wastes like diazinon should never be disposed of by dumping down storm drains, throwing in the trash, or pouring into sinks or toilets. These are all direct paths to our waterways. Diazinon is a chemical of particular concern to Sacramento County Department of Water Resources Officials. "One teaspoon of diazinon turns 2.5 million gallons of water toxic to some aquatic lives, says Terri Wegener, senior engineer for the Stormwater Management Program. "We are very hopeful that the EPA agreement to phase-out diazinon will encourage consumers to move to safer pest control practices."

Residents are encouraged to consider non-toxic methods of pest control. Helpful information on non-toxic alternatives for lawn and garden chemicals is available through the UC Master Gardener's Program.

Visit their website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu. The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances also offers advice on implementing biological and manual control of pests. Find out more at www.EPA.gov/pesticides.