



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

MARCH AND APRIL 2011

Spring Cleaning with Safety and the Environment in Mind

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Soon, the seasons will be changing and it will be time to put away the snow shovels and pick up our brooms and dust pans to begin the annual ritual of spring cleaning. While cleaning, organizing, and getting rid of a few unwanted items is helpful, the Scott County Health Department wants to remind you to spring clean with safety and the environment in mind.

Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Most all households contain items that can be considered hazardous. We often forget that everyday products such as stain remover, weed killer, paint, and compact fluorescent lights should be treated as household hazardous materials (HHM).

Spring is a great time to “clean-up” these materials around your home. A complete list of the types of materials to look for can be found at www.wastecom.com. Once you know which materials are HHMs, you can decide what to do with them. Here are your options:

Keep HHMs. Perhaps you will use up the rest of that fertilizer in your garden this summer? Or maybe that last drop of glass cleaner can be poured into the new bottle? If you decide to keep HHMs around, be sure to

have them labeled and keep them out of the reach of children and animals.

Exchange HHMs. Are HHMs, such as left over paint, just cluttering up your basement shelves? The Waste Commission of Scott County has a HHM facility where materials can be taken to the facility and sorted. Those that are deemed reusable are made available for the public to take free of charge. This is a great option as 25% of materials people want to get rid of can be used again.



Dispose of HHMs. Never pour HHMs down the drain! Disposing of HHMs improperly can negatively impact our environment, including the water supply. Instead, read the label on the package to decide how to dispose of it. For some items it may be acceptable to include them in your regular trash. For others, you will be better off to take them to the

Waste Commission of Scott County's HHM facility.

The HHM facility in Scott County is located at:

Scott Area Landfill
11555 110th Avenue
(County Road Y-48)
Davenport, IA 52804

A satellite facility is also available at:

The Scott Area Recycling Center
5640 Carey Avenue
Davenport, IA 52807.

Materials are collected from residents free of charge. For more information about waste disposal guidelines and drop-off please visit

www.wastecom.com.

Additionally, as you and your family are spring cleaning, we encourage you to carry the same philosophy toward our community. Keep it clean by keeping litter in its place—in the garbage! Report littering and illegal dumping by calling 1-888-NO LITTER, a service of [Keep Iowa Beautiful](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com) and Iowa Department of Transportation.



CLEANING OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET

NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY SERVICE AREA

Spring is just around the corner and that means one thing...time for spring cleaning! While cleaning, be sure to look for old chemicals or medicines that have expired or will no longer be used.

There are several ways to get rid of unwanted medicine.

1. Take back to a pharmacy.

Bring unwanted and expired medicines into a participating Take Away pharmacy. Visit www.iarx.org/takeaway.

2. Make undesirable and dispose in trash. For

safety reasons, it is better to dispose of medications than to hang onto them. Be sure to follow the directions on the Scott County Waste Commission's Web site for making medicines undesirable to children and thieves before disposal. Visit www.wastecom.com.

3. Take to the Waste Commission of Scott County. They provide free disposal of old or unused prescription and non-prescription medicine through their

Household Hazardous Material program.

Reasons to properly dispose of old medicine.

- Flushing medications can contaminate groundwater, pollute waterways and harm wildlife.
- Some teens and adults abuse drugs. In a recent survey 64% of teens that abused pain relievers said they got them from a friend or family member.
- Medicines can be confused for other things and cause accidental poisonings.



Don't forget your medicine cabinet when it comes time for spring cleaning!

PREPARING FOR POOL SEASON

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

According to the U.S Census, swimming is the third most popular recreational activity among adults and the most popular activity among children. This should come as no surprise to anyone who has visited a local public pool on opening day!

In the Midwest, summer is pool season, but professional pool operators begin preparation in the spring. The Scott County Health

Department would like to encourage residents with private swimming pools and spas to follow in the footsteps of professional operators and begin preparing for a safe and healthy pool season early. Pool Safely, a campaign through the Consumer Product Safety Commission, provides these and other tips for a healthy pool season:

- Fencing around the pool

perimeter cannot be climbed, squeezed through, or crawled under by children.

- Install self-closing and self-latching gates.
- Use door, gate or pool alarms whenever possible.
- Install anti-entrapment drain covers that are Virginia Graeme Baker Act compliant.
- Assure pool and spa covers are in working order.



- Train family caregivers in CPR, first aid and emergency response.
- Pool users learn how to swim or take swimming lessons.

LEAD HAZARDS IN YOUR HOME

NOTE FROM CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Spring is often a time when you think about starting projects on your home, such as remodeling. However, be aware that if your home was built before 1978, it may contain lead-based paint. Lead-based paint that is chipped or ingested, especially by children, can cause serious health problems. The dangers from lead-based paint are

most often found in areas where paint is likely to chip, such as window sills, door frames, floors and stairs and from lead dust from recent remodeling. Lead can be found in items other than just paint, including some home remedies and candies from Mexico and Asia.

If you find lead hazards in your home, do not panic.

Lead poisoning is preventable! Call your local health department to find out how to safely take care of the issues in your home. Also, supervise your children very carefully. Keep them away from areas with peeling and chipping paint and do not let them chew on painted surfaces. Lastly, have all children under age 6 tested for lead poisoning.



WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT COUNTY

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT COUNTY

The Waste Commission of Scott County's mission is to provide environmentally sound and economically feasible solid waste management services including land filling, source reduction, material reuse, recycling, composting, and energy recovery for Scott County.

The Waste Commission of Scott County's main office is located in Buffalo, Iowa but it operates four facilities across the county. Facilities include the Scott Area Recycling

Center, which serves as the sorting and processing facility for all residential recyclables; the Scott Area Landfill which includes leachate collection, recirculation and methane recovery; the Household Hazardous Materials Facility which allows for disposal of hazardous materials; and the Electronic Demanufacturing Facility which demanufactures, processes and recycles electronic waste such as computers and televisions.

In addition, the Waste

Commission provides community outreach services including the iLivehere: myhome ourcommunity® program, which provides public education to teach students, residents and businesses in the greater Quad-City area about solid waste and recycling-related issues.



**Waste
Commission**
of Scott County

To learn more about the Waste Commission of Scott County please call 563-381-1300 or visit

www.wastecom.com

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

NOTE FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS, INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

National Public Health Week (NPHW), the first full week in April (April 4-10, 2011), was first designated in 1995 by President Bill Clinton. Since its inception, NPHW has been organized mainly by the American Public Health Association (APHA) and its partner organizations. To celebrate the event, the public health community focuses on an issue that is important to improving public health in America.

This year, the focus is on

safety. The goal is to educate the public about safe practices at home, at work, at play, and in the community. Treating injuries is time consuming and expensive, but preventing injuries is simple and does not cost anything. Everyone can do their part to make the community a safer place. Some safety practices that can be integrated into everyday life include:

- Wearing a seatbelt, even on short trips.

- Using appropriate child safety seats.
- Wearing proper protective equipment.
- Installing and maintaining smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
- Storing cleaning supplies in a safe place away from children.
- Avoiding texting, calling, drinking, eating, and grooming when driving.



**Safety is NO Accident:
Live Injury-Free**

National Public Health Week
April 4-10, 2011 • www.nphw.org

Visit the NPHW website for more information and ways you can help make your home and community safer:

www.nphw.org/nphw11

IS IT LITTER?

COMMON CONFUSIONS: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

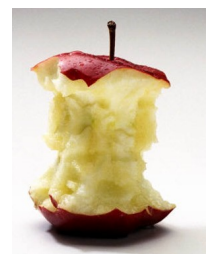
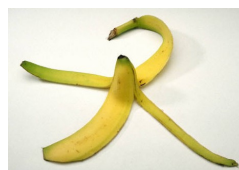
Is throwing a biodegradable object on the ground, like an apple core, considered litter? This topic has sparked much debate over the years. To clear up any confusion on the matter, the answer is yes, it is litter!

The question to ask yourself is this; would you appreciate it if someone threw their left over food in your yard?

Additionally, if everyone threw their left over food on the ground, the world would turn into one big landfill, complete with smell of rotting food and the insects that would be attracted.

To solve any and all debate, Scott County Code has defined garbage to include "animal or vegetable foodstuff resulting from the

handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food". In the Code, garbage shall not be burned, littered or dumped improperly.



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Fax: 563-326-8774

E-mail: health@scottcountyiowa.com

Web site: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2011; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*
- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2011; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*
- Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health
April 5-6, 2011
Scheman Conference Center, Ames, IA

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our Web site, www.scottcountyiowa.com/health. To remove your name from our mailing list, please e-mail health@scottcountyiowa.com or call 563-326-8618.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.