

The Town of Oriental is reminding residents affected by Hurricane Irene that as they clean up their homes and remove flood-damaged material, they need to be aware of potentially hazardous wastes and dispose of them correctly.

Residents that have been affected by flooding need to separate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides. Other products that contain corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive ingredients, such as bleach and ammonia, are also considered HHW. Mud left by floodwater may contain chemicals from sources as varied as garden chemicals to the oven cleaner stored in the kitchen.

It is important to clean and disinfect everything touched by floodwaters as quickly as possible. Renters and homeowners should assume that anything touched by floodwater is contaminated and will have to be disinfected or thrown away. Discard any household goods, such as wall coverings, rugs and furniture that may be contaminated with mold and other toxins and can't be disinfected. When in doubt, throw it out.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste may further threaten the quality of drinking water supplies and the environment.

At the present time the Town does not plan to pick up household hazardous waste however, the annual County Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

There is an earlier drop off event scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2011, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in Morehead City at the Carteret County Health Department at 3820 Bridges Street.

As stated earlier, we will give a two-week notice when the debris pick will end.