

# Trash Talk!

A quarterly newsletter of  
Wabash County Solid Waste  
Management District

Summer 2008

## Hi kids!

Make nature your classroom this summer. While you are out of school, there is a lot to learn about the environment! Our Education Partners made 161 presentations to 3,278 students during 2007 and more during the first few months of 2008—chances are, they met you! Remember to put into practice what they taught you.

First, start with the basics—reduce, reuse, and recycle. Keep a journal about how you reduce your waste, reuse what you already have, and

recycle everything you can. If you're not sure what or where you can recycle, get on the phone and call us at 260-563-7649. Or, surf over to our website, [www.slashthetrash.com](http://www.slashthetrash.com). You'll be surprised at the number of creative ideas you'll discover and the amount of waste that you can make disappear through your reducing, reusing, and recycling efforts!

Second, learn how to take care of waste the right way. Trash should never be thrown on the ground because that's

littering. And remember to place only what is asked for into recycling bins; anything else contaminates your recyclables. Hazardous and problem wastes should never go into the trash—that's why we accept them year-round at

our facility in Wabash. Want to learn more? Stop by our office, visit our lending library, and check out our great resources! We also sell composting bins and recycled-content products that make great gifts.

Finally, use what you've learned. Become actively involved in improving the environment this summer. Help your family recycle the right things at home and dispose of waste safely. Volunteer to help an older person recycle each week. Offer to help sort an older person's unneeded reusables to be sold or given away. Organize your own neighborhood litter cleanup. Start a garden with your friends, cousins, or brothers and sisters. Spread mulch and pull weeds. Take advantage of your local library to borrow books, read magazines, listen to music, or watch movies.

For more information, call our office at 260-563-7649.

*Steve Johnson*



**Sixth graders at LaFontaine Elementary School learn to "Buy Recycled."**



**The Education Partners lead a "Trash Sort" activity with fourth graders at W. C. Mills Elementary School.**



**Third graders at O. J. Neighbours Elementary School learn to find "Words of Warning" on chemical bottles.**

## Attention, "sharps" users!

Do you or does someone in your family use "sharps," such as needles, syringes, or lancets, for medical care? If so, dispose of used sharps safely at the Wabash County Health Department, which is located at 89 West Hill Street in Wabash. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sharps disposal is free.





## Less is better!

When it comes to hazardous household products, less is better. When your family buys fewer chemicals to use around your home or yard, you are less likely to have dangerous spills, less likely to end up with toxics tracked onto your floors or spread on your counters, and less likely to contaminate your own household air. You also don't need to worry about disposing properly of something you don't have!

Here are some of the ways that your family can buy less and use less when it comes to chemicals:

- Use a scrub brush, a rag, or a mop and your muscles to clean.
- Encourage your parents to consider easy-to-make, homemade cleaners. There are many recipes for these available on the Internet and at the library. They include ingredients that you probably already have at home, such as baking soda, vinegar, and salt.
- Use up what you already have. Don't buy replacement products if you still have a cupboard full of old chemicals.
- Go to the store with a list. If you aren't sure what you need or how much, don't buy anything right then.
- Buy the least hazardous product for every job. Look at the labels and, when available, pick "non-toxic" products.



- Purchase only the amount you need. If you need 1 gallon of paint, a 5-gallon bucket isn't a good deal—no matter how low the price!
- Choose water-based products, such as latex paint.
- Give away or trade stuff your family won't be able to use up.
- Dispose of hazardous leftovers safely.

## Hazardous Leftovers and Problem Wastes

We accept household hazardous waste and problem waste year-round at our facility at 1101 Manchester Avenue in Wabash. Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Materials accepted include the following:

- Automotive fluids, including antifreeze, motor oil, and oil filters
- Lawn and garden chemicals, such as fertilizer, plant food, weed killers, and bug killers
- Household cleaners, such as oven cleaner, furniture polish, and tub and tile cleaners
- Hobby and home improvement products, such as paints, glues, photographic chemicals, and pool chemicals
- Fuels, including gasoline and kerosene
- Personal care products, such as fingernail polish and fingernail polish remover
- Fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing items, such as thermometers, thermostats, and mercury switches
- Household batteries, automotive batteries, and rechargeable batteries
- Electronics, such as computers, laptops, monitors, printers, and other components, as well as televisions, VCRs, DVD players, radios, stereos, cell phones, pagers, fax machines, and similar items
- Car, truck, and farm tires
- Large appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, washers, dryers, stoves, water heaters, and microwave ovens



Some fees do apply. Have a parent call us at 260-563-7649 for details. We also have a price list posted at our website, [www.slashthetrash.com](http://www.slashthetrash.com).

When transporting materials to our facility, please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Remind your parents not to mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your family car or van, place them into the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.



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