

NEWS

Gather up your eco-nasties for annual waste round-up

Got harmful eco-nasties you need to get rid of? The approaching holiday long weekend could be the perfect time to clean up your garden shed or garage and round up those potentially dangerous unused chemicals for safe disposal at the upcoming hazardous waste round-up.

The 19th annual Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up takes place Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at a new location from previous years—the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College, 1000 KLO Rd. Take note that the only access to the site will be off of Raymer Avenue

at Kelowna Secondary School. "We see about 50 thousand litres of hazardous waste dropped off at these events each year," says regional waste reduction facilitator Rae Stewart. "That's huge in terms of caring for our environment."

"Many household chemicals can pose a risk if disposed of incorrectly, and are in fact banned from our landfills and sewer systems. "Just as importantly, they can be dangerous to our families and pets if not used or stored properly." Stewart notes the average household has

more than 100 litres of household hazardous materials stored in kitchens, bathrooms, closets, basements and garages at any one time. Those materials include stuff like old gasoline or anti-freeze, pesticides, paint, solvents and household cleaners. Stewart reminds resi-

dents if they only have a can or two of leftover paint and don't have time to wait in line, they may prefer to take their leftover paint to the year round depots. The Boucherie Botle Depot on the Westside and the Battery Doctors on Windsor Road in Kelowna collect paint year-

round. The hazardous waste round-up is for residential use and containers up to 20 litres only. Commercial waste will not be accepted. Residential hazardous materials include anything with an explosive, flammable or poisonous label, like solvents, chemicals, corrosive or toxic cleaners, pesticides and old gaso-

line. Automotive and household batteries and propane tanks are also accepted at the event. For more information about the Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up, see the website www.regionaldistrict.com or call the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250.

Common examples of hazardous waste that can be dropped off at the round-up include roofing tar, aerosols, compressed gas containers, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizer, drain cleaner, sealers, oils, ballasts, pool chemicals, batteries, corrosive materials and acid-based materials.