

## **City of Eastport's**

### **Public education program designed to minimize the entrance of non-industrial toxic pollutants and pesticides into the collection system and waste water treatment facility**

The City of Eastport has been working to improve the operations at its treatment facilities. The City completed a major plant upgrade at its Quoddy Village facility in 2015 and will be starting construction at its Main Plant in 2019. Each of the City's treatment plants remove pollutants from the wastewater prior to its discharge into Passamaquoddy Bay. The byproduct of the water treatment process is an organic residual called biosolids which must be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner. The Wastewater Discharge permit requires that the City provide a public education program to communicate the importance of minimizing the discharge of non-industrial toxic pollutants and pesticides to the Main Plant or to Quoddy Village. The City would like to communicate the importance of proper disposal of household and commercial waste products to keep these materials out of the wastewater treatment plant and its biosolids. These materials, if dumped down a household drain, can adversely affect the treatment processes at the wastewater plants.

Many common household products are used daily but are considered hazardous when they become waste. For example, the used or left over contents of household products such as paints, cleaners, stains, varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides are all considered household hazardous wastes once they enter the environment.

Examples of ways you can properly dispose of gas, oil and paint and these other products:

- As long as it isn't contaminated or premixed with 2-cycle engine oil, small amounts of old gas (1-2) gallons can be added to your automobile gas tank rather than be disposed of.
- Small amounts of gasoline can also be disposed of through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Waste oil collection is offered by local garages that collect waste oil as a service to their customers.
- If your paint products are still usable, find a school, church, club or nonprofit organization that can use the paint.
- If you have small quantities of paint products, take the cover off non-solvent paint products and let it dry out. When it dries out, it can be thrown away with regular household trash. Otherwise, absorb the liquid with cat litter so that it can be disposed of in household trash.
- Buy latex or soy-based paint whenever possible.
- Cleaning solvents should be disposed of through a household hazardous waste collection program.

- To dispose of unwanted pesticides, call the Board of Pesticide Control at (207) 287-2731 to find out when they will be holding a collection near your area.

These materials, along with many others, should not be disposed of by dumping them outside, in storm drains, or down household drains which go to the City's sewer system. These materials should be disposed of with proper guidance.

**For more information on the proper disposal of household wastes, contact the local Maine Department of Environmental Protection Bangor office at: (207) 941-4570.**

The Maine Environmental Depot LLC., located at the Lewiston Solid Waste facility at 424 River Road in Lewiston (207-786-7390), can also accept waste products from any Maine citizen.