



GROUP ESTES *realty*

We ALL Have Some Kind of Hazardous Material in Our Homes...

Dear Friend,

June 2011

Did you know that in many states and municipalities across the country, it's illegal to discard household hazardous waste into your regular trash? A tiny AA battery may seem harmless; however, as part of the 4 million pounds of household hazardous waste that Americans generate every day, the battery is part of a potent mix that can create lasting consequences. Then there are household cleaning products and our electronics, and the list gets pretty long.

This month's flyer outlines how to properly dispose of common household hazardous materials to keep your family and your community safe. Goods we use every day, including CFL light bulbs and computers, thermometers and car wax, even some furniture polish, contain harmful chemicals that, when released, can pollute the air, soil and water. Since identifying these products can be tricky, the back of the flyer provides a helpful list of items to watch out for that you may have in your household.

Where to go when you do need to dispose of some of these items? King County has multiple drop-off stations (two in Seattle and one in Factoria, as well as a Roving Wastemobile. Snohomish County has a drop-off station in Everett and Pierce County has one in Tacoma. I bookmarked the information that I found so feel free to contact me for the specifics. And for all of this information, please do share with your family and friends so we can all help to keep our local communities and environment healthier.

What else do we have for you this month? First, a heartfelt thank you to those of you who contributed to last weekend's Food Drive in support of Northwest Harvest. I had bags of food in the back seat because the trunk was full! And we have \$250 in donations as well, with more still coming in. We appreciate you! And hope that our Group Estes recyclable canvas bags come in really handy for you...

And then there's the market. Well, the first thing to remind you of is that we are not a direct reflection of the national market. There are pockets of communities here that are seeing houses that are priced and presented very well sell quite quickly. There are buyers out there, taking advantage of our still historically low interest rates. And we are seeing more sales across the board, with inventory levels reflecting that. Inventory, for instance, is down

throughout King County whether you are comparing 2011-to-date to the 2010 averages, or May of 2011 to April of 2011. Likewise when comparing May to April of this year, the amount of time that properties are taking to sell is also coming down somewhat. On average

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of course, so for those properties that we are seeing sell in 3 to 14 days, there are the ones that linger, and linger. And selling price averages are still not stable when compared to 2011, however it feels as though there is some improvement as we move further into the year. We'll know a lot more – as we always do – when we get the June numbers so that we can compare the complete first quarter to the complete second quarter.

Snohomish County continues to see more stability in the southwestern part of the county than it is in the southeastern part. In both Snohomish and Pierce, all of the numbers continue to be consistently seeing some improvement in the amount of inventory, but not yet in time to sell and also not yet in pricing.

Please find our five highlighted vendors for this month below. And keep an eye out for your next postcard... we are heading into summer and therefore our movie events!

Spotlight Vendors for June

Piper Lauri Salogga - Piper Lauri Salogga Interiors - 206-660-0995 -
piper@naturalbalance9.com
De-clutterer / Feng Shui / Personal Organizer / Room Makeovers

John Mesek - C & J Estate Sales - 206-271-5108 - cjestatesales@gmail.com
Estate Sales

Aard Pest Control - 206-575-3319 - info@aardpestcontrol.com
Pest Control

Curtis Peifer - 206-498-8379 - curtisjpeifer@comcast.net
Painter / Handyman

Joyce Murdock - The Spa - 206-963-0450 - thespaforthewoman@frontier.com
Aesthetician

As always, if there is anything that I can do for you or someone in your life, whether it's a referral to a trusted vendor, or serving you or them in buying or selling a property, I would be delighted to help.

Sincerely,



Always looking for more ways to be of service ... if you know of someone who would appreciate the level of service I provide, please call me with their name and business number, and I'll be happy to follow up and take great care of them.

HOUSEHOLD HAZMAT: What You Need to Know to Keep Your Family Safe

Although a part of our daily lives, many common products kept in and around the home contain hazardous materials, such as heavy metals or chemicals that are known to be toxic, corrosive or flammable. Storing and disposing of them with care can help limit exposure to these substances—which is healthier for people, pets and our environment.

The Problem with Mercury

Mercury is an element found in common household items including **compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** and **tubes, thermostats, thermometers and batteries**.

It's an extremely toxic element that can damage the brain, kidney and lungs and impair the normal development of the brain and nervous system in fetuses or young children. If a product containing mercury breaks, important steps must be taken to ensure the safety of everyone in the house.



What to do if a CFL Breaks

- 1 Have people and pets **leave the room right away**.
- 2 Open windows or doors to **ventilate the room** for 10-15 minutes before returning to clean it up. Turn off the central heating and air for several hours.
- 3 Thoroughly **collect the broken glass and visible powder**, but try not to touch it directly. Wear protective gloves or consider using a bar of soap to pick up the pieces.
- 4 Place clean-up materials in a **sealed container** or two sealed plastic bags before discarding.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Robert Jaffin



Beware of Battery Risks



Americans buy almost 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year (about 32 per family) to power toys, portable tools and electronic devices.

Source: EPA

- Batteries contain a variety of heavy metals and corrosive acids that generate power by converting chemical energy to electrical energy. However, these toxic ingredients have the potential to **cause burns or injury** to the skin or eyes.
- Rechargeable lithium ion batteries, in rare instances, pose a **fire risk** because they may overheat and ignite if they fail. Lithium ion batteries are found in notebook computers, mobile phones, cameras, ride-on toy vehicles and radio-controlled cars and aircraft.
- Lithium batteries are not only a **choking hazard** for small children and pets, but they pose the risk of serious **internal injuries** if swallowed. Always keep button-cell batteries well out of reach of children and pets. If you suspect that one has been ingested, seek medical attention immediately.



Do not throw used batteries or CFLs in the trash. To prevent toxins from releasing into the air, soil or water, contact your local public works department or go to **earth911.com** for disposal information.



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Do not dump household liquids down storm drains or sewers or throw hazardous materials into trash bins for collection.

Many state and local governments ban the disposal of hazardous materials into standard household trash. Contact your local waste collection agency or visit **earth911.com** to enter your zip code and learn about the specific disposal options and recycling locations near you.

American households produce over 4 million pounds of household hazardous waste every day.

Source: University of Utah

What's Hazardous in Your Household?

Drop these items off at dedicated hazardous materials facilities or retail establishments that serve as collection centers for certain types of used goods. Most communities also host collections several times each year.

Home Maintenance

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Disinfectants
- Drain Openers
- Furniture Polish
- Oven Cleaners
- Oil-Based or Latex Paints
- Varnishes
- Solvents & Thinners
- Glues/Adhesives

Automobile

- Tires
- Car or Boat Batteries
- Fluids, Oil & Filters
- Antifreeze
- Tire Treatments
- Car Wax

Products with Mercury

- Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs
- Thermostats
- Thermometers
- Barometers
- Manometers

Electronics

- TVs/Video Players
- Computers/Monitors
- Stereo Equipment
- Microwaves
- Wireless Phones
- Batteries

Flammable Fuels

- Gasoline or Diesel
- Lighter Fluid
- Kerosene
- Propane Canisters
- Cooking Oil

Garden/Outdoors

- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Pool Chemicals

Miscellaneous

- Nail Polish/Removers with Acetone
- Aerosol Cans (not empty)
- Medical Waste/Sharps
- Over-the-Counter and Prescription Drugs



CFLs should always be handled gently and recycled, as they release mercury vapor into the air if broken. Some major home and hardware retailers offer in-store collection to make recycling more convenient.



When **batteries** are incinerated or left in landfills, metals can pollute the air or leach into the soil or water supply. Several states have regulations in place that mandate the recycling of certain types of batteries. The EPA recommends using rechargeable options when available and recycling all power cells.

