



**KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Faber, Communications and Marketing Manager, 616-821-8006

Kent County Department of Public Works' Swap Shop gives second life to household products

*Fall cleanups a great time to safely dispose of household
hazardous waste*

Grand Rapids, MI – As you're putting away lawn furniture and digging around in your basement, shed or garage for those holiday decorations, consider making a trip to safely dispose of any household hazardous waste you come across. An added benefit, Kent County Department of Public Works (DPW) will take unused or leftover household cleaners and other supplies and add them to the Swap Shop, giving them a second life.

The Kent County DPW runs a convenient Swap Shop at 1045 Wealthy St. SW, where residents can find free, usable household cleaners, automotive supplies, lawn and garden products that come in through its [SafeChem Program](#). The SafeChem program allows for the safe disposal of hazardous waste from households or residential homes for free.

"Instead of sending gently used products for disposal, we reclaim them and add them to our Swap Shop inventory," said **Jonathan Neracher**, Resource Recovery Specialist at the DPW. "The Swap Shop is a community resource where people who may not be able to buy these products, or are really committed to reusing them, can pick up and use them in their households. The bottom line: we'd rather see these products be used than end up anywhere else."

Materials dropped off at DPW's SafeChem satellite sites, and unopened or gently used products, cleaners and supplies are added to the Swap Shop's inventory and are available to the public for free. All the products are inspected and reclaimed by DPW's Resource Recovery Specialists.

Inventory at the Swap Shop changes frequently, and will typically include:

- Automotive supplies like brake fluid, oil and car wash supplies,
- Household items like drain cleaner, spray paint, stains, varnishes, thinners and adhesives,
- Lawn and garden care products like weed killer, pool supplies and insect repellent, and
- Personal care products like soaps, nail polish and shampoo, among other items.

The DPW asks that residents grabbing items from the Swap Shop show what they are taking and sign a reuse waiver, as well as return any unused products to one of its SafeChem satellite sites.

Information about SafeChem satellite sites and a list of what is accepted can be found [online](#).

The Swap Shop opened earlier this year and has added over 1,000 pounds of product to the store inventory every month since April. While there's a variety of items, the top three categories by weight have been automotive products, cleaners and lawn and garden. The Swap Shop also reclaimed over 160 full, or nearly full, propane cylinders in the last 6 months.

The Kent County Department of Public Works provides municipal solid waste disposal services to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste through various facilities and programs, including Waste-to-Energy, Recycling and Education Center, North Kent Transfer Station, and South Kent Landfill.

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