



## NEWS & INFORMATION

### **SPRING CLEANING**

Spring is here, and with it comes spring-cleaning time. If you are like many Americans, you have leftover paint in your basement, old pesticides in your shed or old oil in your garage. There are ways to properly get rid of the chemicals and hazardous waste in your home.

And it's important, because materials as common as used paint thinner can cause harm to the environment if disposed of improperly.

**Paint:** The easiest way to dispose of paint is to let it dry out. To do this, simply leave the lid off. To speed up the process add kitty litter or shredded newspaper. Oil paint takes awhile longer than latex. Once the paint dries out, just toss it in the trash with the lid off.

**Motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid and brake fluid:**

These items may be taken to an automobile service center or automobile parts store for disposal. Be sure to call the store or service center first. Not all stores will accept fluids.

**Pesticides and Fertilizer:** Use it up. Try not to purchase more product than you can use.

Other chemicals may need to be taken to a facility that will accept items for a fee.

For more information, contact the Warren County Solid Waste Management District at 513-965-1209.

# WARREN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

NO. 283  
April 2009

Duane Stansbury, R.S., M.P.H.  
Health Commissioner

### **PLAYING IT SAFE WITH EGGS**

To avoid the possibility of food borne illness, eggs must be handled carefully. The most effective way to prevent egg related illness is by knowing how to buy, store, handle and cook the eggs. Here are some simple steps to help ensure your Easter egg coloring is fun and safe for the family.



- Buy only eggs from a refrigerator or refrigerated case. Make sure that the eggs are
- Store eggs in original carton and use within three weeks. Refrigerate promptly.
- Wash hands, utensils, equipment and work surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after they come in contact with eggs and egg-containing foods.
- Cook eggs in the shell until the yolks and the whites are firm. Boil eggs at least three minutes to insure done-

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- Cooked eggs should not sit out for more than two hours. Use hard cooked eggs within 1 week after cooking.
- Do not hide cracked eggs. Refrigerate decorated eggs and eat within three to four days. For more information, please visit [www.cfsan.fda.gov](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov)

### **FOOD LICENSES FOR FESTIVALS AND FAIRS**

Each year there are numerous festivals as well as the County Fair where organizations and individuals will set up temporary food booths. These temporary food operations must be licensed based on the type of food that they are serving and the type of organization that is operating the food booth. You must secure a license to operate your temporary food booth from the Warren County Health Department at least 48 hours prior to the event. License fees are based on profit and non-profit organizations with this year's fees being set at \$25.00 per event for commercial, for-profit organizations and half that or \$12.50 for non-commercial, non-

profit organizations. Each license is good for a single event, maximum 5 days in length, except for the County Fair where the license is good for the entire length of the fair. An individual or organizations are allowed to obtain up to 10 temporary licenses for 10 separate events each year. You can obtain information on the requirements to set up a food booth,

the required questionnaire on the booth and event, and the license application at the Warren County Health Department Office, 416 South East Street, Lebanon, Ohio. The questionnaire and application are also on the Health Department Website at <http://www.co.warren.oh.us/health/forms/34a.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding temporary food operations please contact the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District at 513-695-1220, 513-261-1220, 513-925-1220 or



## COMPOSTING DO'S and DON'TS

Composting is a practical and easy way to handle yard wastes. It is both less expensive and better for the environment than bagging and having yard wastes hauled off-site. Items that can be composted include grass clippings, leaves, sawdust, wood chips, vegetable peelings, and coffee grounds. Items that should never be composted would be dog droppings, cat litter-box waste, bones, fatty foods, dairy products, meats, and cooking oils. In fact, use of these types of items as compost materials will result



in the attraction of pests, unacceptable odors, and a general slowing down of the composting process for the acceptable materials. An improperly constructed compost pile can become a public health nuisance and we receive calls on a number of these every year. A properly constructed compost pile will not attract rodents and will not generate unacceptable odors. Compost piles should be "turned" (mix up the material in the pile) every two to

three weeks to keep the composting action working and to generate a higher quality compost. Compost is ready to use when it is dark brown, crumbly, and earthy-smelling. Add the compost to your soil as an amendment at the rate of a heaping double handful per square foot. You can find more information on composting at the Ohio Cooperative Extension Service at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1189.html> or by contacting the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District at 513-695-1220, 513-261-1220, 513-925-1220 or 937-425-1220.

## PREPARING FOR TORNADOES

The American Red Cross has outlined a checklist for homeowners to use to prepare for a tornado. The major points of the checklist are:

- ✓ Designate a place where your family can gather if a tornado is headed your way. Basements or a center hallway or closet on the lowest floor are suggested locations.
- ✓ Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing: First aid kit and essential medications, canned food and can

opener, drinking water, protective clothing and bedding, battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members, written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.

- ✓ Listen to local radio and TV stations for updated storm information and understand what a tornado watch and tornado warning mean.

**Watch** means a tornado is possible in your area.

**Warning** means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed your way. Go to safety immediately.

Spring is the time of year typically associated with tornadoes although a tornado can develop at any time of the year. Take time to be prepared for a tornado or any other emergency situation. ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org))

## RESTAURANT AND GROCERY STORE INSPECTION PROGRAM

One of the larger programs conducted by the Environmental Health Division is to inspect the sanitation and food handling practices in all restaurants and grocery stores in Warren County, as is required by Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Our environmental staff inspects all aspects of the food operation including food sources, storage practices, personnel health and cleanliness, hot and cold food holding temperatures, plumbing, lighting, etc. Follow-up inspections are scheduled as necessary to insure compliance with the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. Operation inspection frequency



is based on the type of operation and the risk that the operation poses to the public's health, with those operations in a higher risk category being inspected twice as often as those whose operational practices pose less of a risk. In 2008, our staff licensed 1433 food operations in Warren County. We conducted a total of 4515 inspections (includes re-inspections) of those operations last year. This number includes inspections we conducted on temporary food operations at festivals and the Warren County Fair and on certain types of vending machines throughout the County. If you have any questions concerning the Food Safety Program or on a specific restaurant or grocery in

Warren County please contact the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District, at 513-695-1220, 513-261-1220, 937-425-1220, or 513-925-1220.

