

## Storm water Tip of the Month – January 2015

### **Let's make 2015 a non-toxic new year!**

If you don't have any resolutions in mind this January, consider this one: Don't pour it out!

We're talking about toxic chemicals, such as drain and oven cleaners, paint, and paint thinner, to name only a few. Never, ever pour these liquids into a storm drain or onto the ground or down a household drain or toilet, where they can find their way into our rivers and streams. If you have household chemicals to dispose of, take them to one of the County's hazardous waste collection events. The next collection event is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 9am to 3 pm at the Emergency Services Training Center located at 1600 Calcon Hook Road in Sharon Hill. You can find out when other events are being held by calling the Delaware County Recycling Office at 610-892-9627.

An easy way to reduce the number of chemicals that you have to dispose of is to try to use non-hazardous products when you can. Lemon juice, vinegar, hot water, borax, soap, and baking soda are good alternatives, and there are many recipes online.

Our favorite is this all-purpose cleaner that you can prepare and use by adding to a spray bottle: ½ cup vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda mixed into ½ gallon of water. You also might find that these non-toxic cleaners are not only easier on local waters but also are easier on your wallet.