

Charlevoix County

Environmental Resources Directory

*Frequently
Asked
Questions
&*

Helpful Information



Provided by:

Charlevoix Conservation District

303 North Street

Boyne City, MI 49712

www.charlevoixcd.org

info@charlevoixcd.org

231.582.6193

231.582.7341

Environmental Agencies & Organizations

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

www.michigan.gov/mdard

Phone: 1-800-292-3939

Information on agriculture, water well screenings, migrant labor, food safety, farm market directories, pesticides, consumer issues, etc.

Michigan Dept. Environmental Quality

2100 West M-32, Gaylord, MI 49735

www.michigan.gov/deq

Phone: 989.731.4920

Regulates state environmental standards.

Michigan Dept. Natural Resources

Operations Service Center

1732 West M-32, Gaylord, MI 49735

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Phone: 989.732.3541

Information on hunting, fishing, wildlife, state parks, forests, land & water.

For Burning Permits

www.michigan.gov/burnpermit

Call Toll Free: 866.922.2876

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1599_25432-12819--,00.html

Charlevoix Conservation District, Phone: 231.582.6193 www.charlevoixcd.org

Reducing the risks associated with the use of pesticides & nitrogen fertilizers.

Michigan Land Use Institute

325 E. Lake Street, Suite 22, Petoskey, MI 49770

www.mlui.org

Phone: 231.487.0930

Protecting the environment, strengthening the economy, enhancing the quality of life.

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909

www.msue.msu.edu/mnfi

Phone: 517.373.1552

Delivering the highest quality information that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, especially rare & declining plants & animals & the diversity of ecosystems native to Michigan.

Michigan State University Extension

www.msue.msu.edu/charlevoix

OR

Charlevoix County

319 North Lake Street, Boyne City, MI 49712

www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern0353.asp

Phone: 231.582.6232

Bringing knowledge to life!

Get your SOIL TESTED HERE.

Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency

220 W. Garfield Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

www.nwhealth.org

Phone: 231.547.6523

Serving as the official health department in Charlevoix County since 1930.

Get your DRINKING WATER TESTED here.

INVASIVE SPECIES



Zebra Mussels - These freshwater bivalves colonize anywhere they can attach their tiny byssal threads. Highly prolific reproducers female zebra mussels can produce 1 million eggs per year! Report sightings to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council by calling 231.347.1181. Visit their web site to learn what you can do to prevent their spread.



Invasive Phragmites - is a perennial wetland grass that can exceed 15' tall. Generally found growing along coastal shorelines, it can also be found in roadside ditches, wetlands, and other low wet areas. Spreading rapidly it creates a monoculture crowding out native plants and animals, blocking shoreline views, and potentially creating fire hazards from dry plant material. Contact the Charlevoix Conservation District by calling 231.582.6193 or visit: www.charlevoixcd.org for more information.



Purple Loosestrife - is beautiful but dangerous. Posing a serious threat to wetlands due to its prolific reproduction, it threatens native species by crowding them out and destroying the habitats of animals & insects that depend on those native species for survival. Due to their long flowering season, these plants have the ability to produce millions of seeds each year, plus produce vegetatively by sending up shoots from the root systems. Contact Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to join the Volunteer Purple Corp.



Eurasian watermilfoil- As it takes hold it causes problems for the ecosystem & for recreation. It tolerates lower temperatures & starts earlier than other aquatic plants, quickly forming thick underwater stands of tangled stems & vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. Impeding navigation and swimming, displacing and reducing native aquatic plants, infestations also impair water quality due to dissolved oxygen depletion as thick stands die & decay. Report sightings to T.O.M.



Spotted Knapweed- is a biennial perennial infesting a variety of habitats. It out competes native plant species, reduces native plant & animal biodiversity, & decreases forage production for livestock & wildlife. Soil disturbance allows for rapid spreading & establishment. Small infestations can be controlled by persistent hand-pulling done prior to seed set & making sure to remove the entire crown & tap root. NOTE: Gloves should be worn to prevent skin irritation.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Many ordinary household products are hazardous to dispose of and demand careful treatment. If these products are put in the trash or poured down the drain, there is a possibility that they may leak into the ground and contaminate the groundwater - creating a health hazard. Buy only as much household chemicals as you can use and store any leftovers in lockable containers or cabinets safely away from children.

Take unwanted items to one of the County's HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections. Call the Charlevoix Conservation District at 231.582.6193 for information on the next collection and/or to make an appointment. The collections are held twice a year, typically June & September for Charlevoix County residents.

HouseHold Hazardous Waste Accepted:

www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern0348.asp

Automotive products & fuels:

Antifreeze, brake fluid, car wax, contaminated oil, diesel fuel, fuel oil, gasoline, kerosene, oil/gas mixtures, transmission fluid, and similar items

Cleaners:

Cleaning solvents, dry cleaning solutions, floor/furniture polish, muriatic acid, naval jelly, oven cleaners, silver/metal polish, rust remover, photographic chemicals, and similar items

Paint Products:

Artist's paint, deck stain/preservative, driveway sealer, epoxy, glue, adhesive, lead or oil based paint, paint stripper, solvents, thinners, turpentine, varnish, and similar items. Latex paint accepted for recycling.

Yard & garden products:

Chemical fertilizer, insect repellent/fogger/killer, fungicide, herbicide, mouse/rat poison, other pesticides, and similar items

Miscellaneous:

Fluorescent light bulbs, household batteries, lighter fluid, mercury thermometers & thermostats, mercury (elemental), nail polish remover, pool/spa chemicals, batteries, propane tanks, aerosols, and similar items

Electronics:

Computers, televisions, VCRs, telephones, cell phones, video game consoles, copiers, and similar items



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

BATTERIES

Household alkaline batteries don't contain as much mercury and other heavy metals as they used to and could be disposed of in landfills, but **SHOULD BE RECYCLED**. Watch and camera "button" batteries should be recycled as well. There are drop-off sites around the county where they are collected throughout the year and turned in at the next HHHW collection. You can drop off household alkaline & button batteries at the following locations:



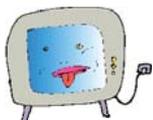
- Charlevoix Conservation District Office, 303 North Street, BC
- Radio Shack, 108 Water Street, Boyne City
- Radio Shack, 06520 M-66, Charlevoix
- Charlevoix County Bldg., 203 Antrim Street, Charlevoix
- Ace Hardware, M-66 Hwy., Charlevoix
- East Jordan True Value, 201 Mill Street, East Jordan
- Beaver Island Transfer Station, 36770 East Side Drive, Beaver Island

COMPUTERS



Computers and related electronic equipment contain substances such as glass, plastics and certain chemical compounds that are highly recoverable, recyclable and reusable. By recycling your old equipment in a responsible manner, you can prevent the release of harmful substances into the environment and help maximize the use of our natural resources. When released into a landfill, these chemicals and substances can harm public health and the environment. So, when your old technology is no longer useful to you, we urge you to help protect our environment by ensuring it is reused or recycled. See page 12 for more info.

TELEVISIONS



Many municipalities have banned TVs from landfills. And for good reason, as your old set contains up to 8 pounds of lead, a poison that can cause nervous system damage. Lead is there to protect you from radiation while it's still in your TV, but when the TV is crushed in the garbage truck and then in the landfill, that lead is going to leak out. If your set doesn't work, dispose of it properly through the County's Household Hazardous Waste collections. See page 12 for more info.

OTHER ELECTRONICS



VCRs, telephones, cell phones, video game consoles, stereos. **ALL** Electronics with circuit boards or containing hazardous substances, should be disposed of properly through the County's Household Hazardous Waste collections (pg. 12).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

FLUORESCENT & COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent light bulbs contain some elemental mercury, like the mercury that is found in an older fever thermometer. Light bulbs that contain mercury use 75% less energy than regular light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. CFLs contain an average of 5 milligrams of mercury. However, the amount can vary depending on the company that makes the light bulb and the type of CFL bulb. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) encourages the recycling of all CFLs when they are ready to be discarded.



CFLs or other fluorescent light bulbs thrown into the trash are usually sent to a landfill or incinerated. These disposal methods will lead to releases of elemental mercury into the environment through breakage and leakage. There is also the potential for exposure to mercury from broken bulbs thrown in a dumpster, trash compactor, or trash can. Once in the environment, mercury can be converted to an organic form that accumulates in living organisms and contaminates the food chain. Recyclers can recover the mercury & other components for reuse. Use HHHW collections for disposal or check with stores like Home Depot or Lowes, they have programs to take them.

GASOLINE



Gasoline is toxic and flammable and should never be poured down a drain, into storm sewers, onto the ground or thrown into the trash! Disposing of it in any of those ways can cause an explosion or contaminate the air and/or groundwater. To get rid of unusable gasoline, dispose of it through the County's HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections (Used motor oil too. See below).

MOTOR OIL

Motor oil is a non-renewable resource; don't throw it away! Used motor oil can be recycled and used again. Landfills are not designed to handle this material and dumping used oil on the ground can contaminate the soil and groundwater.



PAINT (Latex)

Most latex paints are NOT hazardous and can be dried out and disposed of in your regular trash.

The exceptions are those latex paints that were:

- manufactured before 1980 (these may contain lead),
- marketed to hide, kill, or resist mildew (these contain pesticides),
- or are marketed to preserve wood (these contain pesticides).



If you wish to recycle latex paint bring it to one of the HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections (HHHW).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

FERTILIZERS

Before applying a fertilizer, get a soil test from your local MSU Extension office. Use fertilizers according to the label, more is not better. Over fertilizing can burn your plants, waste money, and contaminate the groundwater or surface water. Excessive nitrogen fertilizer that leaches into the ground can cause nitrate contamination in nearby drinking water wells, posing a serious health risk to infants and pregnant mothers. Using excessive nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers near lakes can cause algae blooms that kill other aquatic plants and animals.



PAINT (Oil Based)

Paint is oil-based if paint thinner or mineral spirits are required for clean up. Oil-based coatings contain resins, solvents, pigments and additives. Other potential hazards: vapors are harmful, flammable. Never pour oil-based paint down a storm drain or sewer system. This can pollute groundwater, rivers and streams. If an oil-based container is empty, it may be disposed of in the trash. Store oil-based coatings in their original container with the lid on securely. Properly stored, paint will stay in good condition for up to 10 years.



PESTICIDES



The first step in pest control is to properly identify the pest. MSUE staff are able to help with plant disease & pest identifications. Contact them at 231.582.6232. When purchasing pesticides, try to buy only what you need, read & follow all label directions exactly. Unwanted or unused pesticides can be disposed of at the County's HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections, OR taken to a Clean Sweep Site (Emmet Co. Drop-Off Center) **anytime** for free.

PROPANE TANKS

Propane tanks can be recycled by most propane dealers. See page 18, *Yellow Page Excerpts 'Gas-Propane'* to find a dealer near you. Propane tanks are also accepted at the County's HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections.



SOLVENTS



Common household products that contain solvents include: Nail polish remover, spot removers and degreasers, polishes, paint thinners, paint & varnish strippers, septic tank cleaners. Solvents can be toxic and/or flammable. Solvents or solvent fumes can harm skin, eyes and lungs. Some solvents may also cause serious environmental hazards. Dispose of leftover materials properly at the County's HouseHold Hazardous Waste collections.

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

SMOKE DETECTORS

The most common type of smoke detector used in residential homes contains a minute amount of radioactive material. Ionization type smoke detectors contain Americium 241.

(Photoelectric type detectors do not contain radioactive material.)

Although the amount of material contained in these detectors is so small that it does not pose a risk to human health, some localities do not allow them to be disposed of with municipal waste. In this case, smoke detectors that contain radioactive material can be returned to the manufacturer for disposal. When returning a smoke detector to the manufacturer, include a note that indicates that the detector is intended for disposal and mail it to the address listed on the back of the detector.

For a list of manufacturers/distributors that will take back smoke detectors, visit:

<http://www.ucrra.org/images/61.SmokeDetectorDisposalInfo.05%5B1%5D.pdf>



Charlevoix County Yellow Pages Excerpts

“Appliance Repair”



Brooks Appliance Service

02833 Boyne City Charlevoix Rd.

Boyne City

Phone: 582-6217

Martin’s Washer & Dryer Service LLC

10647 Flagg Rd.

East Jordan

Phone: 536-7851

“Books, Used”



Local Flavor

125 Water Street, Boyne City

Phone: 582-7499

Pine River Books LLC

104 Park Avenue, Charlevoix

Phone: 237-9298

Round Lake Bookstore

107 Mason Street, Charlevoix

Phone: 547-2699

Beaver Island District Library

26400 Donegal Bay Rd., Beaver Island

Phone: 448-2701



Charlevoix County Yellow Pages Excerpts

“Books, Libraries”



Boyne District Library

201 E. Main Street
Boyne City

Phone: 582-7861

Charlevoix Public Library

220 W. Clinton Street
Charlevoix

Phone: 547-2651

Crooked Tree District Libraries

Railroad St., Boyne Falls Phone: 549-2277
Walloon St., Walloon Phone: 535-2111

Jordan Valley District Library

1 Library Lane
East Jordan

Phone: 536-7131

“Clothing & Furniture”

Challenge Mountain Resale Shop

01158 M-75 South, Boyne City Phone: 582-6966



Consign Design

1 Van Pelt Place, Charlevoix Phone: 547-9773

Crossroads Resale Shop

205 Water Street, East Jordan Phone: 536-7606



Hand Me Downs

501 Water Street, East Jordan Phone: 536-9820



My Sister's Closet

1209 Bridge Street, Charlevoix Phone: 547-7350

Rainbow Thrift Shop

6480 US 31 South, Charlevoix Phone: 547-2815



Goodwill Industries*

Bear Creek Plaza, 1600 Anderson Rd.
Petoskey Phone: 348-6947



Charlevoix County Yellow Pages Excerpts

“Gas - Propane”



Ellsworth Farmers Exchange *

Ellsworth

Toll Free Phone: 877.885.0095

Phil's Service

02773 Boyne City Road

Boyne City

Phone: 582-7524

Island Energies

36789 Kings Hwy.

Beaver Island

Phone: 448-2007

“Scrap Metal”



*Suggested to call
first regarding
hours & drop off
policies.*

Boyne Valley Township Transfer Station

West off US 131 in Boyne Falls, located on Addis Road

Twp. Phone: 549-3130

East Jordan Auto Parts

121 Elm Street

East Jordan

Phone: 536-2322

Fitzpatrick's Salvage

2475 Clarion Road

Walloon Lake

Phone: 535-2145

Melrose Township Transfer Station

West of Clarion, off US 131, across from the Marathon station

Twp. Phone: 535-2310

Phil VanDorn

02773 Boyne City Road

Boyne City

Phone: 582-7524

U.S. Salvage

2437 Clarion Street

Boyne Falls

Phone: 231-881-7188

Warren Solgot *

4276 Bartholomew Road

East Jordan

Phone: 536-2054, 536-3439

WATER TESTING / WELL DRILLERS

Residents using a private drinking water well should have their water tested at least once every three years by a registered water testing lab. Most common contaminants such as nitrates are tasteless, odorless, and colorless. Suggested tests are partial chemistry or nitrate test, and a coliform bacteria test.

Water analysis is routinely done by the District Health Department. Also as a service through the Michigan Water Stewardship Program, water testing for nitrates is provided free of charge once a year during Ag Expo. Samples are collected and tested by MSU in Lansing.

Contact the Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency in Charlevoix 231.547.6523 for more information.

Well drillers are required by law to close all abandoned wells on your property before drilling a new well. Old wells are dangerous and are direct pathways for contaminants to get into the groundwater and our drinking water.

“Well Drilling & Servicing”



Bingham Well Drilling Inc.

2050 Pesek Road, East Jordan

Phone: 536-3169

Goldsmith Well Service & Repair

02509 Main (Clarion), Boyne Falls

Phone: 535-2567

Great Lakes Well Drilling Inc.

04379 Boyne City Road, Boyne City

Phone: 582-2448

Martin Well Drilling

26275 Back Hwy., Beaver Island

Phone: 448-2197

Mick Cain

02202 Clute Road W., Boyne City

Phone: 582-2524

Thomas Well Drilling

11285 Phelps Road, East Jordan

Phone: 536-2850

Walloon Lake Water System Inc.

2053 North Shore Dr., Walloon Lake

Phone: 535-2542

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

When your septic system is correctly located, adequately designed, carefully installed, and properly managed you will have a waste disposal system that is economical, safe, effective, and long lasting.

Regular pumping of the septic tank is the single most important maintenance requirement of the septic tank.

The frequency of pumping depends on the size of the tank and the number of people in the household and whether the occupants are minimizing the release of unnecessary solids (such as not using a garbage disposal). Regular pumping of a septic tank is relatively inexpensive when compared to the cost of replacing a failing drain field.

Warning signs that your system is failing include: sewage surfacing over the drain field, sewage back-ups in the house, lush and unusually green growth over the drain field, slow draining toilets or drains, and sewage odors. When these things happen, it's too late and immediate attention is needed! Leaking and failed septic systems are the second leading cause of contaminated drinking water and polluted lakes and streams. A failing septic system may result in property damage, odor, disease potential, and costly repairs or replacement.

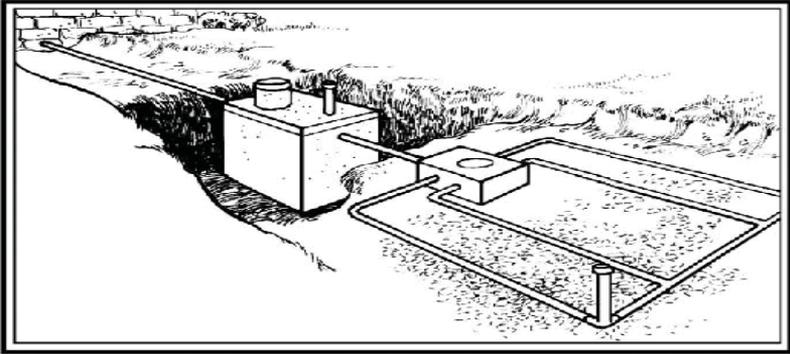
To prolong the life of your septic system:

- Pump tank regularly, on average every 3-5 years
- Minimize the amount of water entering the system
- Avoid using a garbage disposal
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can - flush only waste & toilet paper
- Avoid woody shrubs or trees on the system or drain field
- Avoid compaction of the drain field - keep vehicles off
- Avoid using septic additives - some do nothing and others can hurt the septic system

A septic tank operates best when it is no more than one-third full of sludge and scum. As more solids accumulate in the tank, particles are more likely to flow out of the tank and into the drain field, where premature clogging may occur. The costs of pumping a septic tank (\$100 to \$350) are far less than the expense of replacing a drain field clogged by escaping solids (\$3,000 to \$6,000).

(Continued on the next page)

SEPTIC SYSTEMS



Septic tank with soil absorption field (drain field or leach field)

“Septic Tanks & Septic Systems”

At Your Service Inc.

Phone: 536-9668

Bartlett Septic Pumping Inc.

Phone: 536-3322

Bradley’s Septic Tank Service

Phone: 582-6148

Great Lakes Excavating

Phone: 547-8055

Great Lakes Site Development

Phone: 582-6783

Hughes Excavating

Phone: 547-4499

Kruzel Excavating

Phone: 582-9435

Northland Septic Tank & Excavating Inc.

Phone: 536-7701

R & B Excavating

Phone: 582-9144

Site Planning Development Inc.

Phone: 547-4429

Tim Moyer Excavating

Phone: 582-2358

Road Runner Septic Pumping

Phone: 582-6118

Recyclable Reference

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Aluminum | 9, 18 |
| Appliances | 10, 16 |
| Automotive Fluids..... | 12-15 |
| Batteries, household alkaline | 13 |
| Books..... | 10, 11, 16, 17 |
| Boxes | 9 |
| Building Materials..... | 10, 11 |
| Cardboard..... | 9 |
| Chemicals..... | 12-15 |
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| Clothing & Furniture | 10, 17 |
| Composting..... | 10, 11 |
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| Fluorescent & CFL Bulbs | 12, 14 |
| Fuel Tanks | 11 |
| Gasoline | 12, 14 |
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| Household Hazardous Waste | 12 |
| Insecticides | 12 |
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| Mercury, mercury thermometers | 12, 15 |
| Motor Oil..... | 12 |
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| Packing Material | 11 |
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| Paint, Oil Based..... | 12, 15 |
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| Propane Tanks | 12, 15, 18 |
| Solvents | 12, 15 |
| Smoke Detectors | 16 |
| Tin..... | 9, 18 |
| Tires | 11 |

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

MDA - Ag Pollution Emergency Hotline

1-800-405-0101

**Environmental Response
(oil & chemical spills)**

1-800-424-8802

Michigan Poison Control System

1-800-222-1222

Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

1-800-292-4706

Police-Fire-Ambulance

Dial 911

Environmental Resources Directory

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*Additional copies are available upon request
by contacting:*

Charlevoix Conservation District

info@charlevoixcd.org

231.582.6193