

THE GREEN CLAN

Community Cleanup Week Is Coming

Community cleanup week is coming May 4 – May 8th. Flyers will be distributed to remind you of that date and to post the schedules for each housing area. In the meantime, go pick some mushrooms.



- If You Recycle Plastic, then please throw away the lids on the bottles.

INDOOR MOLD? WHAT TO DO!

INFORMATION FROM EPA WEBSITE AND OTHER SOURCES

Whether it's a damp rug, a leaky pipe, or a roof leak, it amounts to moisture in the home. Mold spores attach and breed on those wet spots. Mold needs moisture to exist.

In a moist setting, you might notice greenish spots on the rug or the drywall. That's mold!

Molds are microscopic fungi that are plentiful in nature. Since they are fungi rather than plants, they do not get their energy from photosynthesis; they get their energy from whatever *host* they are living on.

Once you've detected mold in your home, it's not too difficult to clean it up. It should be cleaned up since mold can pose potential health threats including allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints. But, in addition to cleaning up the mold, you also need to eliminate the source of moisture. You may have to fix a roof or patch up some plumbing,



ing, or throw away some clothes. Mildew is actually a form of mold that invades damp clothes, and towels while decaying and leaving a telltale odor.

If the mold is on a hard surface, you can wash it off with detergent and water, then allow it to dry. Remember,

you should first eliminate the cause of all the moisture, otherwise the mold may return. You can use bleach, also, but be careful with it in enclosed spaces.

Just remember that the key to mold control is moisture control.

HOW ABOUT A FREE WOODEN PALLET

What would you do with a pallet at your house? If you have need of wooden pallets, they are available free at the Kickapoo Seniors Center. Just drive up and pick a few up and take them home. They are located in the driveway of the commodities program, and they need to be removed. You

can take however many you like, and you don't have to call and notify anybody. Just drive up and load them up.

I have used pallets to set boxes on in the basement so that certain things would not get

ruined during the next basement flood. I have used pallets to build a compost bin for gardening. You may have ideas of your own. Grab them while they last.

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Recycling Rules to Live by

Please remember that plastic lids on bottles are a #5 type of plastic. #5 plastic cannot be mixed with #1 or #2 plastic, and most bottles are made up of #1 or #2 plastic. Therefore, we do not recycle plastic lids, and we ask that you throw them away. They have to be removed at the recycling centers, and their workers often get tired of doing that. You help us help those workers by removing all lids when you recycle.

Also, do not put bags of mixed recycling in the bin. Mixed bags will be thrown away and not recycled. Most recycling materials cannot be mixed, and they have to be treated as trash if they are mixed.

Styrofoam is not recycled. Treat it as trash. None of the recycling centers that we know of handle Styrofoam, so please throw it away. Thank you.

New Environmental Specialist for Tribe

The Kickapoo Environmental Office has hired a new environmental specialist. His name is Vernon Dempsey. He is a member of the Navajo Tribe, and he currently lives in Lawrence, KS. He is a graduate of Haskell University majoring in Environmental Sciences. During the interview, he exhibited strengths in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). He also has GPS knowledge, but he will acquire more at training in St. Joseph in May. His hobbies include Beadwork and Crafting, horseback riding, and shooting pool. He's already lost a game to Lorenzo. Vernon is married and has a two year old son. Welcome aboard, Vernon.

THE DANGERS OF ASBESTOS INFO FROM EPA

Asbestos has been used in many products due to its special properties. Asbestos is cheap, strong, has high tensile strength, highly resistant to chemical corrosion, is fire resistant, and has poor heat and electrical conductivity. This made it the ideal material for the use in the construction industry. Products that are made with asbestos are referred to as asbestos containing materials (ACM). Also building materials that contain asbestos are referred to as asbestos containing building materials (ACBM). ACM is also categorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as being friable or nonfriable. Friable meaning any ACM that contains more than one percent asbestos that is crushable and reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry,

thus releasing fibers into the air. Nonfriable ACM is also prone to release fibers when it is disturbed.

EPA identified three categories of ACM used in buildings. The following three categories are surfacing materials, thermal system insulation, and miscellaneous materials. Surfacing materials are usually sprayed or troweled onto ceilings, walls, and structural members. Thermal system insulation are insulation that hinder heat transfer or prevent condensation on pipes, boilers, tanks, ducts. Miscellaneous materials consist mostly of other products and materials that are nonfriable like floor tile, some ceiling tile, roofing felt, concrete pipe, outdoor siding, and fabrics.

The health effects related to asbestos exposure are asbestosis, lung cancer, meso-

thelioma, and others have been noted among populations exposed to asbestos. Asbestosis is the scarring of the lungs which is irreversible. This disease reduces the normal function of the lungs to intake air and also reduces lung volume. Lung cancer has many possible causing agents, but an increase risk has been found among people that work with asbestos. Mesothelioma is a cancer of the mesothelium. Mesothelium is the tissue that lines several body cavities. The detection of mesothelioma is usually in its later stage and is almost always fatal. To date there is no established safe level of asbestos exposure.



SPRING