

Recipes for Safer Household Cleaning Products

All Purpose Cleaner

To 1 quart of water (warm or hot) add ONE of the following:

1 teaspoon liquid soap

boric acid (Borax)

Lemon Juice and/or vinegar

**make stronger according to the job to be done.*

Glass Cleaner

1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice

1 quart water

use newspapers to wipe dry



Drain Cleaner

Pour boiling water down your drains once a week. Plunge or use drain snake where needed.

Oven Cleaner

Clean spills as soon as the oven cools using steel wool and baking soda. For really tough spills add salt. **DO NOT** use this cleaning method on self-cleaning or continuous-clean ovens.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Use vinegar or baking soda and a toilet brush.

Furniture Polish

1 teaspoon lemon oil

1 pint mineral vegetable oil

Rug Deodorizer

Sprinkle carpet liberally with baking soda to deodorize.

Wait 15 minutes and vacuum.

Roach and Ant Repellent

Sprinkle boric acid (Borax) along cupboard edges, baseboards, and in cracks.

Mothballs

Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, or white peppercorns in place of mothballs.

Flea and Tick Remover

Mix brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food. Sprinkle fennel, rosemary, or eucalyptus seeds or leaves around your pets sleeping areas.

Metal Polish

-**Brass, Bronze, Copper** (unlacquered)

Equal parts of salt, flour, and vinegar.

-**Silver**-Rub with baking soda paste.



About The GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee

The GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee was established in 1987 to allow the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming to work together cooperatively on recycling and solid waste issues. Over the years numerous programs and publications have been developed to assist communities, residents, businesses and farms in managing their waste materials. Programs include, but are not limited to: MAT-EX: Western NY Materials Exchange, household hazardous waste collections, propane canister and tank disposal, composting, and school programs. For more information contact the GLOW office at:

1-800-836-1154

or (716) 344-4035

Fax: (716) 344-4037

Email: glow@eznet.net

Website: www.glowsolidwaste.org

**Note: It may be necessary to dial new area code (585) after 9/02.*



Partially funded by the NYSDEC MWR&R Grant.

Printed on Recycled Paper.



Household Hazardous Waste

Disposal

•
Substitutes

•
Alternatives

What Is Household Hazardous Waste?

It is any waste produced in the home which is flammable, toxic, corrosive or reactive. They include paint products, pesticides and herbicides, batteries, hobby chemicals, automotive and cleaning products.



Why are these products a problem?

- ☠ You may be exposed to toxic or irritating chemicals during use.
- ☠ When discarded down a drain, in the ground or in a land fill these chemicals may contaminate water supply.
- ☠ When tossed in the garbage, these chemicals may react and cause injury to sanitation workers.

What is the best way for me to handle these hazardous products?

- ☺ **Carefully read and follow label directions.** Use the product at the recommended strength. Use the product in the manner directed by the manufacturer; for example, the misapplication of oven and drain cleaner may cause irreparable eye damage.
- ☺ **Do not mix chemical substances.** You may get dangerous results: pool chemicals and motor oil will ignite; bleach and ammonia produce a poisonous gas.
- ☺ **Avoid aerosols.** Much of the product may end up in the air rather than doing your job.
- ☺ **Keep area well ventilated.**
- ☺ **Secure lids tightly.**
- ☺ **Use alternatives when possible.**



Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Many products found in your kitchen, bathroom or garage are potentially hazardous substances. Because of their chemical nature they can poison, corrode, explode, or burst into flame when handled improperly. When discarded, they are household hazardous waste.

Motor oil, paints, pesticides, antifreeze, batteries, and some household cleaners contain solvents, petroleum products, heavy metals, or other toxic chemicals. When these products are dumped in the trash or poured down the drain, their hazardous chemicals can injure other people or contaminate drinking water sources.

To prevent drinking water contamination...

- ☠ **Never** bury household waste.
- ☠ **Never** dump waste along the side of the road.
- ☠ **Never** pour waste into a street drain storm sewer.
- ☺ **Use** only the amount of a product that is absolutely necessary.
- ☺ **Use** hazardous household products as infrequently as possible.

What is the best way to dispose of potentially hazardous household products?

The best advice is DON'T. If you cannot use up the product, think of someone who can. A neighbor, school or church may be very pleased to share your leftover cleaning material. When shopping, buy only the products you need in the quantities you will use up.

If you must dispose of a household product, consider the following guidelines:

- ☺ **Use collection day** for household hazardous waste events whenever possible.
- ☠ **Do not mix waste:** this could create a violent reaction or form a more hazardous product.
- ☠ **Do not** put liquid waste in the trash.
- ☠ **Do not** discard large quantities of household waste at one time - for example, a shelf of old paints or several gallons of used antifreeze.

Alternatives & Substitutes to Toxics in Your Home

Today many people are being encouraged to use alternatives commercially formulated cleaning products. Before using any substitute, you should consider the following questions:

- ☺ *Is the substitute more or less toxic than the commercial product?*
- ☺ *Will both the substitute and the commercial product degrade to harmless residues when washed down the drain to either municipal or on-site sewage systems?*
- ☺ *Is the substitute more or less expensive than the commercial product?*
- ☺ *Will the substitute be as effective as the commercial product?*
- ☺ *Is the substitute a homemade mix? Is the formula safe? Has it been tested?*

On the opposite panel are several examples of alternative substitutes for safer household use.

Remember...

In the store, read the label before you buy the product. Make sure it will do all you want. Whenever you buy a product, it is your responsibility to use and dispose of the product properly. Once purchased, follow instructions for safe use, ventilation and storage.

Don't buy more of a product than you need.

Learn to recognize what types of products can become hazardous leftovers (and what can be done with them.)

Except for medicines and some pesticides, if you end up with more than you need, gift leftover materials to someone who can use it (friends, neighbors, community groups, etc.)--in the original container. Pass along any additional precautionary information that was included with the product. **Never create unlabeled containers of hazardous waste.**

Never repackage hazardous wastes in containers that might suggest, by its shape, that the contents are edible. This can create an unnecessary hazard for children.

Empty, dry containers, including paint cans, can be placed in regular trash. It is suggested that pesticide containers be rinsed with water and the residue used before it is disposed of. These containers cannot be recycled.



Remember: Recycle a product or hold it for a collection day whenever possible.