

HAZARDOUS WASTE - HANDOUT

Household Hazardous Products & Alternatives

	HOUSEHOLD ITEM	HAZARD	DISPOSAL METHOD	SAFER ALTERNATIVES
BATHROOM	TUB, TILE, TOILET BOWL CLEANER ⁺	Corrosive Toxic	Use existing product, then convert to alternative or Landfill	rub with soap flakes & baking soda or sliced lemon dipped in borax, rinse & dry OR dissolve 50 ml soap flakes or powder with 10 ml borax in 375 ml boiling water. Cool down. Add 50 ml chalk line powder (whiting) & pour in sealed plastic or glass container-
	DISINFECTANTS ⁺	Toxic	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use 125ml borax in 4 1/2 litres of water
	PERSONAL AEROSOLS ⁺	Toxic Reactive	Waste Depot	-buy products in non-aerosol form
	DRAIN CLEANER	Toxic Corrosive	Waste Depot	-use 1 or 2 handfuls of baking soda & 125ml vinegar. Allow to sit one hour, then run water or pour boiling water down drain OR use a plunger
	NAIL POLISH REMOVER	Toxic Flammable	Waste Depot	-no alternative
	TOILET BOWL ADDITIVES	Toxic Corrosive	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use safe all-purpose cleaner -for stains, mix lemon juice & borax into a paste. Apply, then let set for 2 hours & scrub off
	UNUSED MEDICINES	Toxic	Pharmacy Waste Depot	-take all medication as instructed
LAUNDRY ROOM	NON-PHOSPHATE & PHOSPHATE DETERGENT	Corrosive Toxic	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use 50 ml washing soda per load to remove detergent residue before switching -use 250 ml soap flakes or powder plus 25 to 50 ml washing soda or baking soda
	CHLORINE BLEACH	Corrosive Toxic Reactive	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use 1 part hydrogen peroxide to 5 parts water. Soak garments in solution, then rinse. -OR use 125ml borax per wash load
	SPRAY STARCH ⁺	Flammable	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-mix 15ml cornstarch with 250 ml water in pump spray bottle
	FABRIC SOFTENER & STATIC CLING PREVENTION ⁺	Toxic	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-toss small wet towel into dryer a few minutes before end of cycle -use plant spray mister on the underside of clothes you are wearing
	SPOT & STAIN REMOVER ⁺	Toxic	Use existing product then convert to alternative	-immediately soak spot in cool water & sponge away <u>GREASE</u> - rub with a cloth dipped in borax OR apply a paste of cornstarch & water, let dry & brush off <u>INK (ballpoint)</u> - sponge with rubbing alcohol (hair-spray), rub with soap, rinse & wash <u>FRUIT & RED WINE</u> - sponge with club soda <u>CHOCOLATE & COFFEE</u> - soak in cold water, rub with soap & mild borax solution <u>GRASS</u> - rub with glycerine, let stand 1 hour & wash

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GARAGE & BASEMENT	SOLVENTS (paint thinners, brush cleaner, degreaser, turpentine)	Flammable	Waste Depot (some items can be recycled)	-use latex or water-based products
	PAINT STRIPPERS	Flammable Toxic	Waste Depot	-use a heat gun and sandpaper
	GLUES & EPOXIES	Flammable Toxic Reactive	Solidify in a well ventilated area & then Landfill	-use a water based product
	PAINTS* (enamel or oil base, all spray paints)	Toxic Flammable	Solidify & Landfill (see note)	-use latex or water based paints
	STAINS & FINISHES	Toxic Flammable	Waste Depot	-use latex paint or natural earth pigment finishes
	PENETRATING OILS*	Toxic Flammable	Waste Depot	-use vaseline
	MOTOR OIL	Flammable	Recycle	-purchase recycled product
	FERTILIZERS	Toxic	(see note)	-organic fertilizer: compost, mulch
	INSECTICIDES*	Toxic	Waste Depot	-crop rotation, companion planting, insecticidal soap, attract insect-eating birds, integrated pest management
	HERBICIDES* (weed killer)	Toxic	Waste Depot	-keep grass short, hoeing & hand weeding
	FUNGICIDES*	Toxic	Waste Depot	-do not overwater, keep areas dry & clean
	PROPANE CANNISTERS	Reactive Flammable	Waste Depot	-barbecue with charcoal or wood
ANTI-FREEZE	Toxic	Waste Depot or Recycle	-no practical alternative	
KITCHEN	DISHWASHING DETERGENT*	Phosphates	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use commercial phosphate free or environmentally friendly soaps -use liquid soap or powdered soap with 10-15ml of vinegar OR 1 part grated bar soap & 8 parts water boil, cool & store
	AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER DETERGENT	Corrosive	Use existing product, then convert to alternative	-use equal parts borax & washing soda
	SILVER POLISH	Corrosive Toxic	Waste Depot	-soak in boiling water with baking soda, salt & a piece of aluminium

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KITCHEN	METAL POLISH	Corrosive Toxic	Waste Depot	-rub flour over surface with a dry cloth
	FLOOR CLEANER+ (All purpose cleaner)	can be Corrosive Toxic	Waste Depot	-use 75ml washing soda & 125 ml ammonia in 4 litres of warm water
	RUG & UPHOLSTERY CLEANER+	Corrosive Toxic	Waste Depot	-sprinkle dry cornstarch on rug & vacuum -for spills, sponge rub promptly with mixture of vinegar & water, then sponge with clean water & pat dry
	GLASS & MIRROR CLEANER+	Toxic	Waste Depot	-mix 30ml of vinegar in 1.1 litres of water
	OVEN CLEANER+	Corrosive Toxic	Waste Depot	-use steel wool with washing soda & water -use 250 ml of ammonia with 750 ml of water -place 250 ml of ammonia in a pan on the top shelf & a pan of boiling water on bottom shelf in preheated 100°C (215°F) oven. Turn off oven and leave over night. Before opening oven to clean, be sure to provide plenty of ventilation.
	FLOOR & FURNITURE POLISH**		Use existing product then convert to alternative	-use 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts olive or vegetable oil
MISCELLANEOUS	AIR FRESHENER+	Toxic	Landfill	-use house plants, dry or simmering potpourri, good ventilation, dish of baking soda or vinegar
	MOTH BALLS	Toxic	Waste Depot	-use cedar chips, newspaper, lavender
	RAT & MOUSE POISON	Toxic	Waste Depot	-use live traps & remove food supply
	BATTERIES	Toxic	Waste Depot	-use rechargeable batteries OR adapter & power cord
	SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS	Toxic	Waste Depot	-use ozone or ultra violet light systems
	SMOKE DETECTORS (Ionizing type)	Radioactive	Waste Depot	-use non-ionizing detector

*This product may not be considered H.H.W., but is environmentally unfriendly.

+Products in an aerosol can are explosive and contain flammable propellants; CFC's in aerosols deplete the ozone layer.

NOTE: Use a product up or give it to someone who can, so only the empty container need be disposed.