

HOW TO MANAGE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste accounts for less than 1 percent of the total solid waste stream; it typically includes:

- **Cleaners** (drain, oven and upholstery cleaners; spot removers; furniture and silver polish)
- **Paint and Preservatives** (solvent-based paints, solvents and thinners; wood preservatives and strippers)
- **Pesticides** (mothballs, bug sprays, garden insecticides, rodent poisons)
- **Automotive Products** (motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries and engine degreasers)
- **Medicines and Cosmetics** (nail polish removers, hair spray and dyes, old prescription medicines)
- **Home Hobby Supplies** (darkroom chemicals, art supplies, batteries, and adhesives)

General Suggestions for the Storage of HHW

- Keep substances in the original containers
- Be sure label is securely affixed to the container
- Keep in a cool, dry place.
- Keep substances out of reach of children and pets.
- If the original container is leaking, enclose it in a larger container that is labeled appropriately.
- Keep incompatible chemical products separated
- Periodically check containers for deterioration.

Proper Use of Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals

- Carefully read and follow the label's directions.
- Use the product in the manner directed by the manufacturer of the product.
- Do not mix chemicals.
- Use the product at the recommended strength.
- Utilize every ounce of each product; buy only what you need; purchase small quantities if possible; give leftover products in the original containers to others who may use them.
- Use natural, less toxic products or alternatives when possible
- Prevent splashing of chemicals.
- Keep areas well ventilated.
- Secure lids tightly.

ALTERNATIVES TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Waste Categories	Chemical Products	Alternatives
House	Oven Cleaners	Baking soda and water
House	Toilet Cleaners	Toilet brush, baking soda and white vinegar
House	Disinfectants	½ cup borax in 1 gallon water
House	Drain Cleaners	Plunger; flush with boiling water, 1/4 cup baking soda and 2 oz white vinegar
House	Rug & Upholstery Cleaners	Sprinkle baking soda on rug and vacuum
House	Floor and Furniture Polish	1 part lemon juice, 2 parts olive or vegetable oil
House	Bleach Cleaners	½ cup white vinegar or baking soda or borax
House	Mothballs	Cedar chips, newspapers, lavender flowers
House	Ammonia-based Cleaners	White vinegar, salt & water mix for surface. Baking soda & water for the bathroom
House	Abrasive Cleaners or Powders	Rub area with ½ lemon dipped in borax – rinse dry
Paints	Enamel or Oil Based	Latex or water based paint
Paints	Furniture Strippers	Sandpaper or heat gun
Paints	Wood Preservatives	Water based wood preservatives
Paints	Stains/Finishes	Latex paints or natural earth pigment finishes
Pesticides	House Plant Insecticide	Mixture of bar soap and water or old dishwater; spray on leaves and rinse
Pesticides	Botanicals	Insecticide soap, import predators e.g. ladybugs, ground beetles, preying mantis
Pesticides	Flea Collars and Sprays	Herbal collar/ointment (eucalyptus or rosemary) or brewer's yeast in pet's diet
Pesticides	Roach and Ant Killers	Roaches: traps or mix equal parts of baking soda and powder sugar Ants: chili powder to hinder entry – wash counter tops cabinets, and floors with equal parts water and vinegar