

Household Hazardous Waste

Reduce Your Use

See how you can substitute common household items for many of hazardous products to protect your safety and the environment (on reverse).

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste is any waste, produced in the home, which is flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive.

Common examples include:

- Paints
- Pesticides
- Automotive fluids
- Hobby chemicals
- Cleaning products
- Thinners and strippers
- Batteries
- Acids/bases

Why are these wastes a problem?

These products pose many dangers. First, you may be exposed to toxic substances during use. Second, the chemicals may contaminate water supplies when improperly discarded down the drain or into a ditch. Third, when tossed into the garbage, the wastes may injure sanitation workers or react on the truck or in the landfill.

How should I handle household hazardous waste?

Handle these wastes carefully to avoid injury to self or damage to the environment. Store wastes in their original containers with the labels intact. Keep them out of the reach of children and pets; and away from heat.

Save wastes for a household hazardous waste collection program.



Call the Schenectady County Household Hazardous Waste Program to obtain disposal information: 518-386-2225.

How can I reduce the need to dispose of household hazardous wastes?

Use the least hazardous products available.

Many products have less toxic or non-toxic alternatives. See inside chart for some suggestions. If you must purchase a hazardous product, buy only the amount you can use up.

Read labels.

Make sure that the product will do what you want it to do before you buy it. Once purchased, follow instructions for safe use, ventilation, and storage.

Don't use more of a product than the directions say to use.

Using an excessive amount of a product only results in greater danger to you and the environment, not in a better job.

Give leftover hazardous products to someone who can use them.

Friends, neighbors, community groups, or charities may be able to put your leftovers to good use.

Recycle whenever possible.

Outlets may exist for used motor oil, batteries, antifreeze, paint, or photographic chemicals.

Avoid Aerosols.

Much of the product may end up in the air rather than doing your job.



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SAFER PRODUCTS GUIDE

For more information, call: 518-386-2225 or for TDD/TTY call the New York State Relay 711



BUILD A GREEN CLEANING KIT

DOING THIS?

DO IT SAFELY

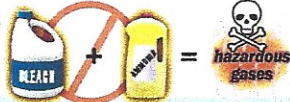
All purpose cleaning

Avoid products that combine cleaning and disinfecting

- They may have unlisted toxic ingredients.
- Added scents and perfumes may trigger asthma or rashes.

Avoid chlorinated or ammonia cleaners

- They can release dangerous gases if mixed with other cleaners!



Clean most surfaces with soap. Scrub well. Wash frequently.

For tubs, sinks and toilets: try scrubbing with baking soda or Bon Ami. Rinse well.

Floor cleaner: mix ½ cup white vinegar in a bucket of water to clean linoleum, tile, brick or stone, or to damp wipe wood floors.

Vinegar

Dawn and Joy dish soap

Murphy's oil soap



Killing germs with bleach

- Follow label instructions
- Directions may vary by bottle

Use only plain, unscented bleach.

Not all bleach kills germs.

Bleach that can kill germs must have an "EPA Reg. No." on the label.



Hand cleaning

Avoid antibacterials, antimicrobials, or soaps with Triclosan. They kill only some germs and not cold viruses. Using these cleaners may create resistant germs.



Wash hands with solid or liquid soap and warm water for 20 seconds (long enough to sing Happy Birthday twice).

If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol based gel or wipe.

Laundry

Whitening clothes

- Chlorine bleach is labeled **DANGER**; never mix with other products!

Use non-chlorine whiteners: oxygen or hydrogen peroxide products.

If adding chlorine; use gloves, eye protection and open windows for ventilation.

Fabric softeners and dryer sheets

- Scents and perfumes can irritate lungs and trigger asthma.

Fabric softener: Add ½ to ¾ cup baking soda to the rinse cycle.



Drain clearing

Avoid products with lye or marked **DANGER** or **POISON**.

- These products are toxic to inhale.
- They can burn your skin.
- Using them can damage plumbing.

Pour boiling water down drain; repeat as needed.

Use a plunger or plumber's 'snake'.

If these don't work, call a plumber.

Prevent future clogs—use strainer covers.



Oven cleaning

- Many oven cleaners are hazardous to inhale and can burn your skin.
- Avoid products marked **DANGER** or **POISON**.
- Avoid products with lye.

Use self-cleaning oven feature.

Prevent build-up; wipe spills. Use a foil liner to catch spills.

Soften baked-on spills with a damp cloth, or soak with baking soda and water.



Painting

Avoid oil-based paints and solvents:

- They are flammable.
- Have toxic fumes.
- Need solvents for clean-up.
- Don't go in the trash.



Use gloves and open windows for ventilation.

Use latex paint or water based stains where practical. They are safer to use and clean up.

For information, please contact

The Schenectady County Household Hazardous Waste Program: 518-386-2225

Safer Alternatives for Household Hazardous Products

AEROSOLS

Use non-aerosol products:

- *Deodorants* – rolls-ons, creams, sticks
- *Cooking sprays* – cooking oils
- *Shaving cream* – brush & shaving soaps
- *Hair sprays* – setting lotions, gels, pump sprays
- *Cleaners* – pump sprays

AIR FRESHENER

- Leave open box of baking soda in room.
- Set out dish of vinegar.
- Add cloves, cinnamon, vanilla to boiling water, simmer for five minutes.
- Use herbs or potpourri.

ALL PURPOSE CLEANER

- Mix 1 quart warm water, 1 teaspoon liquid soap, lemon juice and/or vinegar. Make stronger according to the job.
- Baking soda with water.

ANT CONTROL

- Pour a line of cream of tartar at place where ants enter house.
- Sprinkle red chili, paprika or dried peppermint where ants enter.
- Caulk or weather strip entry points.

CARPET CLEANER

- Use soap-based, non-aerosol cleaners.
- Clean stains immediately with club soda.
- Sprinkle cornstarch and vacuum.
- Rub dry baking soda into grease.
- Combine equal parts vinegar & water to remove winter salt residue.

CHLORINE BLEACH

- Use safer & less destructive dry bleach to whiten.

DISINFECTANT

- Use 4 cups borax in 1 gallon water.

DRAIN OPENER

- Plunger or mechanical snake.
- Handful of baking soda and 4 cups vinegar, followed by boiling water.
- Use enzymatic biological drain cleaner.
- To prevent clogging, flush drain weekly with boiling water.

- To prevent clogging, use a strainer to keep hair, lint, etc. out of the drain.

FABRIC SOFTENER

- Rinse cotton & wool blankets with 2 cups white vinegar added to washer.

FLOOR CLEANER

- Mop with 1 cup white vinegar with 2 gallons water.
- Polish with club soda.

FURNITURE POLISH

- Wipe with mixture of 1 teaspoon lemon oil in 1 pint mineral or vegetable oil.
- Try 3 parts olive oil, 1 part vinegar.
- Try 1 part lemon juice, 2 parts vegetable oil.

GLUE/DECAL REMOVER

- Soak in white vinegar.

GROUT CLEANER

- Use a toothbrush with either undiluted vinegar, 3 parts baking soda with one part water, toothpaste or denture cream.

HAIR COLORS

- Use plant-derived rinses.

INSECTICIDES

- Select pest-resistant plants.
- Plant garlic cloves at 1 foot intervals in gardens.
- Use traps or spray soaps.
- Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 tablespoon dried hot pepper, and 1 teaspoon pure soap in 1 gallon hot water; let sit 1-2 days; strain then spray on plants.

INSECT REPELLENTS

- Don't wear scented colognes, shaving lotions, or shampoos when outdoors.
- Use chamomile tea as a lotion.
- Burn citronella candles, punk, or mosquito coils.

METAL POLISH

- *Brass* – Worcestershire sauce.
- *Chrome* – Apple cider vinegar or baking soda and soft cloth.
- *Copper* – Vinegar and salt; or lemon and salt.

- *Pewter* – Rub with fine steel wool dipped in olive oil, wash in soapy water and dry; or polish with cabbage leaves.

- *Silver* – Soak in 1 quart warm water with 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, and piece of aluminum foil; or rub with ammonia and soft cloth. Soak in buttermilk or sour milk overnight.

- *Stainless steel* – Wash with 1 quart warm water and 3 tablespoons baking soda; rinse with hot water.

MILDEW/SOAP SCUM

- Try 1/4 cup baking soda, 4 cups vinegar and warm water.

MOTHBALLS

- Try one of the following – cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, white peppercorns, cloves, dried lemon peels.
- Keep garment clean - wrap in linen or seal in paper or cardboard boxes.

OVEN CLEANER

- Wipe up the spill as soon as possible.
- Catch spills under baking pan with a baking sheet.
- Sprinkle salt and baking soda on spill while still warm scour with steel wool and baking soda for baked on grease, wipe with ammonia, let sit overnight; then scrub with baking soda.

SCOURING POWDER

- Baking soda (do not use on aluminum) or salt.

STAIN REMOVER

- Make paste of washing soda and water; club soda, lemon juice, and hot water and cold water.
- *Deodorant* – Rub lightly with white vinegar and launder as usual.
- *Wine/coffee* – Clean stains immediately with club soda.
- *Coffee/tea* – Equal parts moist salt and vinegar; or baking soda solution of 3 tablespoons baking soda & 1 quart water.

TOILET BOWLS

- Use baking soda and vinegar paste. Let sit for 2 hours, then scrub.

WINDOW CLEANER

- Use 4 cups vinegar in 1 gallon warm water, use newspaper to dry glass.

Schenectady County Recycles is a project of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County and the Schenectady County Economic Development & Planning Department with funding from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Protection Fund. Schenectady County Economic Development & Planning Department 518-386-2225 www.schenectadycounty.com Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County 518-372-1622. For more information on waste reduction and recycling in Schenectady County, visit www.schenectadycountyrecycles.info/



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