

A Citizen's Guide to Household Hazardous Waste



Cleaning products like aerosol sprays, bathroom and drain cleaners, and automotive products like waxes, starter fluids and repair products are all considered household hazardous wastes. Many ingredients in these products are corrosive or reactive, and if they aren't disposed of properly, they can harm people and contaminate our rivers, lakes and drinking water. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. If you choose to use commercial products, however, make sure to dispose of them properly! See the chart on back for details



If you see words like: **DANGER**, **CAUTION**, **WARNING**, or **TOXIC**, you're probably handling a hazardous waste!

Tips for handling toxics

Store household hazardous wastes in their original containers, and make sure the labels are readable.

Save money and reduce waste by purchasing only what you need and use.

Let solvents and paint thinners set in a closed jar to let dirt and paint settle to the bottom. You can reuse the top portion, and dispose of less waste!

Never pour motor oil, paints or chemicals directly down the sink or into a catch basin in the street. Recycle or dispose of them properly.

For disposal locations and drop-off dates, visit the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority: www.socrra.org. Or visit Macomb County Environmental Health Department:

<http://www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth>

Non-toxic alternatives- Homemade solutions to prevent pollution

To disinfect, use one-half cup borax or washing soda* dissolved in one gallon hot water.

To clean floors, use 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing soda* in one gallon warm water.

For glass cleaner, mix one part vinegar to four parts water. Dry windows with a newspaper.

To unclog drains, use a plumber snake instead of drain cleaners.

Instead of toilet cleaner, scrub with a toilet brush and baking soda.

To deodorize carpets, sprinkle with baking soda, and vacuum after 30 minutes.

Be sure to use washing soda (sodium carbonate) in these recipes, and not baking soda (sodium bicarbonate).

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Proper disposal of household hazardous wastes is easy!

Follow the guide below:

Okay to throw away  Take to hazardous waste drop-off site 

Pour small amounts down the drain with lots of water 

Kitchen:

Aerosol Cans 

Floor Care Products 

Household batteries 

Bathroom:

Disinfectants 

Medicine (expired) 

Nail Polish/remover (dried up) 

Toilet, tub and tile cleaner 

Garage:

Antifreeze, Battery (lead acid) 

Garden fertilizer 

Gasoline and kerosene, Motor oil Insecticides and weed killers 

Workshop:

Paint (latex-dried) 

Paint (oil-based, auto, model), Paint thinner, stripper or primer Wood preservative 

Electronics:

Computers, TVS, and Cell phones 

