

Respect Our Waters

Household Hazardous waste and Chemical Pollution Fact Sheet:

Household hazardous waste is any product found in your home, yard or garage generated by normal household activities (for example, routine home and yard maintenance) that can cause harm to human health or the environment when stored or disposed of improperly. These **chemical pollutants** include oils, nitrogen, bleach, salts, pesticides, metals, and human or animal drugs.

Before you Buy:

- Research non-hazardous alternatives (see table).
- Take an inventory before buying anything to avoid making duplicate purchases.
- Read labels and be aware of what they mean.

Safe Disposal:

- Some household hazardous wastes can be dried or mixed with cat litter until they are solid and placed in the trash.
- Some household cleaners can be poured into household drains as this is their intended purpose. Be sure they are flushed thoroughly with water. **NEVER POUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IN A SEPTIC SYSTEM OR STORM DRAIN.**
- Other waste should be stored safely until dropped off at a collection point, such as care care items, pesticides and poisons, or propane tanks.

| Hazardous Waste Source Reduction | |
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| Drain Cleaner | Use a plunger or plumber's snake. |
| Glass Cleaner | Mix one tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in one quart of water. Spray on and use newspaper to dry. |
| Furniture Polish | Mix one teaspoon of lemon juice in one pint of mineral or vegetable oil and wipe furniture. |
| Rug Deodorizer | Liberally sprinkle carpets with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary. |
| Silver Polish | Boil two to three inches of water in a shallow pan with one teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of baking soda and a sheet of aluminum foil. Totally submerge silver and boil for two to three more minutes. Wipe away tarnish and repeat if necessary. |
| Mothballs | Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mints or white peppercorns. |