

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET...



When disposing of hazardous household waste, please refer to the following guide for proper disposal instructions. If you do not see a specific hazardous waste listed and you would like more information please call 3 1 1.

Booklet Guidelines:

- Included in this booklet are commonly used products that you should become familiar with on how to dispose of properly.
- There are less-toxic and more environmentally friendly alternatives listed for products included in this booklet.
- Use the below reference guide to help you identify proper disposal options for common household hazardous waste.
- If there is a product or products that you have questions about that are not included in the reference booklet, please contact 3 1 1 for help on how to dispose of the item(s) in question.

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SYMBOL	WHAT IT MEANS
	Two options – use all of the specific product or give leftover portion away.
	Small amounts of product can be poured down the drain, with lots of water to dilute and keep from clogging pipes.
	Product can NOT be poured down the drain
	Empty product container can be put in garbage cart for disposal

SYMBOL	WHAT IT MEANS
	Product can NOT be disposed of in garbage cart
	Unused product can be recycled
	Check for household hazardous waste collection program
	Special instructions available for disposal

Got questions, call:



CLEANING PRODUCTS



When disposing of hazardous household waste, please refer to the following guide for proper disposal instructions. If you do not see a specific hazardous waste listed and you would like more information please call 311.

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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
ABRASIVE CLEANERS & SCOURING POWDERS	 	Use items around your home to take the place of these cleaners, including baking soda, borax or Bon Ami™ with a damp cleaning sponge. After cleaning, wipe surface with vinegar to remove any remaining traces of soap. Vinegar can also be used to remove hard water or mineral deposits.
ALL-PURPOSE CLEANERS	 	Listed below are options for cleaning alternatives for kitchens and bathrooms: Baking soda (4 tbs.) with warm water (1 qt.) Washing soda (1/8 c), liquid soap (1 tbs.), vinegar (1/4 c), hot water (2 gal.) Warm water (1 qt.), liquid soap (1 tsp.), borax (1 tsp.) After usage, rinse with water. Only use amount needed for cleaning purposes.
BLEACH-BASED CLEANERS	 	Laundry, use any of the following to whiten and sanitize: baking soda, borax, lemon juice or white vinegar (1/2 c) Household cleaning, use any of the following to sanitize: baking soda, borax or dry bleach
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS	 	To deodorize: Vacuum as normal and sprinkle one of the following: baking soda or borax (1 c) and cornmeal (2 c). Vacuum up after one hour minimum. To shampoo: Use club soda or soap-based rug/carpet shampoo immediately after spill occurs. Mix white vinegar (1 qt.) with boiling water (3 qt.) Or mix liquid dishwashing detergent (1/2 c) with boiling water (1 pt.) – let cool into jelly form and then mix until it hardens into paste. Apply to area and wipe clean.
CARPET STAIN REMOVER	 	After spill or accident, try to soak up as much of stain before applying cleaner/stain remover. For fresh stains: use club soda or vinegar (1/4 c) with water (1/4 c) For older, set-in stains: use borax (1/4 c) with cold water (2 c) apply to stain and let dry then rinse with water. Test these mixtures on a small, hidden area before using because it may lighten color of carpet.
DRAIN CLEANERS & CLOG REMOVERS	  	To open and declog drains attempt to use a plunger first, then pour the following down the drain: baking soda (1/2 c) and vinegar (1/2 c), cover then pour boiling water (2 qt.) down the drain to flush. Rent or buy a plumber's snake.  To help prevent clogs, have a strainer on all drains and flush with boiling water weekly.

Got questions, call:



CLEANING PRODUCTS Continued



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
FLOOR CLEANERS	 	<p>Ceramic, brick, stone and linoleum: use vinegar (1 c) and hot water (1 gal.) and apply with mop. Linoleum: use liquid soap (1/4 c), lemon juice (1/4 c) and hot water (2 gal.) or use white vinegar (1/4 c.) in water (1/2 gal.) Wood flooring: use vegetable oil-based liquid soap (1/8 c) in water (1 gal.) and apply with mop. Or mix in a spray bottle warm water with a little vinegar. Spray on floor and mop with cloth mop or towel.</p>
FURNITURE & FLOOR POLISH	 	<p>For wood only: create a mixture of either olive oil or mineral oil (2 parts) with lemon juice (1 part). Rub in toothpaste or walnut meat for treatment of water spots. For leather: create a mixture of olive oil (1/4 c) and lemon oil (2-3 drops) For vinyl: create a mixture of vinegar (1/4 c), vegetable oil-based liquid soap (1/4 tsp.) and water For unfinished wood floors: use mineral or vegetable oils, or vegetable oil-based liquid soap mixed with warm water.</p>
GLASS/WINDOW CLEANER	 	<p>Use vinegar (1/4 to 1/2 c) mixed in warm water (1 qt.), or lemon juice (1 tbs.) mixed in water (1 qt.), or liquid soap (1/4 to 1/2 tsp.), vinegar (3 tbs.), mixed in water (2 c). Dry with newspaper to prevent streaking.</p>
LAUNDRY PRODUCTS	 	<p>Phosphate-free and biodegradable detergents are a great alternative. Options such as non-chlorine dry bleach, borax and baking soda can be used to whiten clothes. For blood or wine stains try using club soda or rubbing alcohol. For grease stains mix a paste of cornstarch or baking soda and water. When dry brush off the mixture. For ink stains soak the item in milk or apply hydrogen peroxide to the area in need of treatment.</p> <p> Do NOT dispose of remaining laundry products on the ground or down storm drains.</p>
OVEN CLEANER	 	<p>To prevent or minimize oven messes, place a lining of aluminium foil on the bottom of the oven, or place a pan underneath the item(s) baking to catch any overflow. Buildups can be prevented by cleaning oven regularly with mixture of baking soda and warm water. If there is a fresh mess in the oven, pour lots of salt on the area, let oven cool and then clean up. Keep oven operating more effectively by keeping it clean.</p>

Got questions, call:



PERSONAL CARE & MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
AEROSOL SPRAY CANS	 	If the product is available, use products that come in pump spray bottles or in solid form For trash and refrigerator odors: use baking soda to keep
FINGERNAIL POLISH & REMOVER	 	Use up what you buy. Use these products in well-ventilated areas
HAIR CARE PRODUCTS	 	If the product is available, purchase sprays and gels in non-aerosol forms. For permanent solutions — purchase ammonia-free products For hair color/dyes — purchase plant-derived rinses
HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES	 	When possible, purchase items that can use solar power (<i>calculators, radios, watches, etc.</i>) or rechargeable batteries/AC adapters Make note to buy brands that contain little to no mercury
LIME/HARD WATER REMOVERS	 	Hard water and/or mineral deposits can be removed by soaking in vinegar. Let set before rinsing. ▲ Do NOT dispose of on the ground or in the storm drain.
METAL POLISH	 	For chrome: wipe with vinegar and a soft cloth to polish. For brass, bronze, copper and pewter: create a paste of salt (1/2 tsp.) and white vinegar (1/2 c), flour (pinch) and apply to metal, let stand and then wipe clean. A mixture of lemon juice and salt can also be used, rinse with water. ▲ Dried products can be disposed of in garbage cart. For silver: polish with toothpaste or boil silver for 3 mins in water (1 qt.) with baking soda (1 tsp.), salt (1 tsp.) and a piece of aluminum foil, or create a paste of baking soda and water and rub silver item with paste and wipe clean. For stainless steel: use white or cider vinegar and wipe down with a soft cloth.
PET PRODUCTS	 	Keep pets clean and take to the veterinarian when needed. Ask for natural treatment options. Flea control: vacuum interior of home often. Keep bedding and anything pet comes in contact with clean. Apply natural flea repellents to your pet's fur or use a herbal flea collar. Flea combs can be used and any fleas removed should be dropped in soapy water.
THERMOMETERS		If mercury thermometer breaks, use cardboard or hard plastic to contain mercury and place in plastic bag with a zipper lock. Contact 3 1 1 for disposal options available Use a non-mercury thermometer.

Got questions, call:



AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
ANTIFREEZE		<p>Change out antifreeze at an automotive repair shop so it will be disposed of properly</p> <p>Use low-toxic or recycled antifreeze – it's better for the environment</p> <p>⚠️ Strain used antifreeze with something like a coffee filter and reuse the antifreeze. Let the filter dry and discard in the garbage can.</p>
AUTOMOTIVE PAINT & PRIMERS		<p>Take vehicle to a automotive repair or auto body shop for professional painting.</p>
AUTOMOTIVE SOAP & WAX		<p>When washing vehicle use small amounts of phosphate-free soap</p> <p>Wash vehicle on lawn to help filter water or go to a car wash location</p> <p>Only purchase the amount of wax needed, and be sure to use it completely</p>
BRAKE & TRANSMISSION FLUIDS		<p>Check for leaks regularly on your vehicle. If there is an option, opt for recycled transmission fluids.</p> <p>⚠️ Check product labels for recycling instructions. There are some brake and transmission fluids that can be recycled.</p>
CAR BATTERIES		<p>⚠️ Recycle the used battery at an automotive parts store</p> <p>Clean battery terminals with baking soda and water to keep battery working properly</p>
ENGINE CLEANERS/DEGREASERS		<p>Clean engine at a car wash location – use water or citrus-based cleaners/degreasers</p>
FUELS <i>(gasoline, diesel, kerosene)</i>		<p>Only buy amount of fuel that you need and use it completely</p> <p>Store fuels in a tightly sealed container</p> <p>⚠️ To "recycle" old gasoline, strain through a paint filter, and mix with 1 part new gasoline for every 2 parts old</p>
MOTOR OIL		<p>If available, purchase recycled motor oil</p> <p>Take vehicle to an automotive shop for oil. Check to see if there are specific shops that recycle used oil and fluids.</p> <p>⚠️ Check to see if automotive parts stores or service stations will recycle your oil and fluids if you opt to change them yourself.</p>
OIL FILTERS		<p>⚠️ Check to see if automotive parts stores or service stations will recycle your used filters if you opt to change them</p>
WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID		<p>Only buy amount of fluid that you need and use it completely</p>

Got questions, call:



PAINT & FINISHING PRODUCTS



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL	
ADHESIVE	 	 Dried adhesives can be placed in the garbage cart If possible, use white or yellow glues	Choose adhesives that are solvent-free or low-VOC
BRUSH CLEANERS	 	Brushes should be cleaned immediately after usage	For brushes that have hardened due to oil-based paint, soak in hot vinegar to clean
CHEMICAL PAINT & VARNISH STRIPPER	 	 Save solvent-based products and check with 3 1 1 to see if there is a collection program Consider the surface that needs stripping and use alternative products (<i>sandpaper, power sander, steel wool, scraper, heat gun or citrus-based stripper</i>)	 ONLY water-based stripper products can be poured down the drain, in small amounts, with lots of water to flush out. DO NOT use products methylene chloride, trichloroethylene (TCE), benzene, xylene, 1, 1, 1, trichloroethane (TCA), or toluene.
ENAMEL & OIL-BASED PAINT	 	Choose safe and environmentally friendly products, like latex and water-based paints, which are easier to recycle	If you are working with wood products, choose natural earth pigment finishes which are less-toxic options
LATEX & WATER-BASED PAINT	 	Buy paints in smallest amount needed to prevent excessive amounts of leftovers. Use products that have low-VOC content	Dried paint products can be disposed of in garbage cart
SPRAY PAINT	 	Do not use spray paints (aerosol) because it contributes to air pollution and are harmful if inhaled.	
STAIN, VARNISH & LACQUER	 	It is best, if possible, to use latex paint, water-based stains or natural pigment finishes.	Read product labels before using and for proper disposal guidelines.
THINNER, SOLVENT & TURPENTINE	 	Filter used thinner and store clear for reuse. For particles removed during filter process, wrap in newspaper and disposed of in the garbage cart.	Do not use products that require solvent or thinner for cleanup.  Store products in a properly sealed container.
WOOD PRESERVATIVE & SEALER	  	 Unused products can be taken to wood treatment companies, farmers, sign installation companies, fence installation companies, recreation departments or schools that offer woodshop classes for usage. Contact before dropping off.	Check out alternatives that do not require preservatives or sealers, including pressure treated lumber or plastic lumber. Do not use products that contain: creosote, pentachlorophene or arsenic

Got questions, call:



GARDEN PESTS & PRODUCTS



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
ANT KILLER		<p>For interior: Ants only come inside in search of food. Remove food crumbs and trash, which tends to attract ants</p> <p>Keep bins for storage and recycling clean and free of food debris</p>
FERTILIZERS <i>with chemicals</i>		<p>Composting is an environmentally alternative for fertilizing, which also reduces yard and kitchen waste. <i>For more information on composting please call 311.</i></p>
CLOTHES MOTHS & SILVERFISH		<p>Use cedar chips or mothballs while storing out-of-season clothing</p>
HERBICIDES		<p>Keep yard free from weeds. Removing weeds before they flower prevents seed production and helps eliminate future weeds</p>
INSECT REPELLENT		<p>Remove potential breeding areas <i>(standing water, scrap tires, trash, etc.)</i></p>
INSECTICIDES <i>for inside plants</i>		<p>Spray plants with insecticidal soap or spray, do this outside and bring indoors</p>
PESTICIDES	 <i>Banned products listed on following page</i>	<p>Remove weeds by hand picking to reduce the need for Pesticides. Remove plant debris and wood to help prevent infestations. If infestation occurs, hand pick or use forceful spray of water. If there is no other option, use least toxic pesticide available.</p>
RODENT POISON <i>rat or mouse</i>		<p>Keep interior and exterior free of debris, including food and trash Keep yard maintained</p>
SLUGS	 <i>Banned products listed on following page</i>	<p>Remove individual slugs by hand if it is a small problem When watering plants, water the roots instead of leaves and do not over water. Slugs are attracted to moist areas for breeding.</p>

For ant trails: Clean trails with soap and water, and then apply one of the following: cayenne pepper, damp coffee grounds, lemon juice or salt

For exterior: No control measures are necessary unless ant hills (nests) are interfering with portions of yard space

Read product labels – if fertilizer does not contain pesticides or weed killers, can be thrown away in garbage cart

If moth or silverfish invade home, mix 1 part molasses and 2 parts vinegar and place in area of concern

Grasscycle – a natural way to promote healthy, dense grass growth and fewer weeds. Also reduces amount of watering and acts as a natural fertilizer.

Use less-toxic products, such as citronella candles or oil

Mix 1 tsp. dish washing liquid soap to 1 gal. water and apply to plants with a spray bottle

Use least toxic pesticide available. Contact nursery or home improvement store for options

Banned products listed on following page

Seal any openings on the home to keep rodents from entering
Set out baited traps, or contact a local pest control company

Slugs can be trapped by placing a shallow pan in soil filled with stale beer (*slugs are attracted to the yeast*) or to prevent slugs from entering a flower bed or garden, line with minimum of 2" copper stripping because they will not cross over the copper.

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HOBBY & RECREATION PRODUCTS



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PRODUCT	SAFE DISPOSAL	LESS-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE / PROPER USE & DISPOSAL
ART SUPPLIES	 	Use non-toxic or water-based supplies (<i>inks, paints, glues, etc.</i>) Avoid supplies containing toxins (<i>lead, chromium, cadium, etc.</i>)
CHARCOAL LIGHTER FLUID		Instead of lighter fluid, use electric charcoal starter
CHEMISTRY SET		Make sure to read label for age restrictions for users Use sets that contain non-hazardous chemicals
PHOTOGRAPHY CHEMICALS		 Donate unused chemicals to photo lab or school photography class
POOL CHEMICALS		Use supplies completely Store any unused supplies properly to prevent accidents Check with manufacturers for less-toxic chemicals
SOLVENT-BASED GLUE	 	Use non-toxic glue  For unused glue, let dry until it hardens in container and dispose of in garbage cart

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