

a CBE Fact Sheet

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE REFERENCE CHART

	Substance	Problem	Alternatives	Comments
Kitchen Cleaners	Oven Cleaners	Caustic (causing burns) chemicals are highly corrosive. That's why they're effective cleaners. But these same chemicals can cause severe skin and eye damage.	Use baking soda for scouring. For baked on grease, put 1/4 cup ammonia in oven overnight to loosen, then scrub with baking soda.	Never use aerosols! Pastes are safer. Never mix chlorine bleach with ammonia or acid (such as toilet bowl cleaners.) Toxic fumes result.
	Drain Cleaners		Pour boiling water down drain, or use plunger of metal snake.	
	Chlorine Bleach		Use dry bleaches - they're safer and less destructive. Use Borax to whiten, it's a good grease cutter.	
	Abrasive Scouring Products		Baking soda may work as well and there is no abrasion to surface being cleaned or irritation to skin of person using it.	
Polishes and Paints	Furniture Polish	Solvents are fast-drying substances which dissolve something else. Breathing the vapors or accidental drinking can be harmful or even fatal. Long-term exposure to some solvents may cause liver and kidney problems, birth defects, central nervous system disorders and cancer.	To make a non-toxic polish, melt 1 Tbsp Carnauba wax into 2 cups mineral oil. For lemon oil polish, dissolve 1 Tsp lemon oil into 1 pint mineral oil.	Avoid products containing highly toxic ingredients nitrobenzene, denitrobenzene (carcinogens), and oil of cedar (central nervous system stimulant). Avoid polishes which may entice children. Methylene chloride is used extensively in paint removers. It forms carboxyhemoglobin in the body and is very dangerous if a heart condition exists.
	Shoe Polish		Use polishes which do not contain trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, or nitrobenzene.	
	Silver Cleaner		Soak silver in 1 quart warm water with 1 Tsp baking soda, 1 Tsp salt, and a small piece of aluminum foil.	
	Paint remover and thinner		Use with good ventilation, use sparingly, and keep tight lids on containers.	
	Paints		Use water-based paints, if possible. They still contain toxic substances but lack volatile hydrocarbons (solvents). Old, lead-based paints should never be used.	
Aerosols	Deodorants	Aerosols are made up of one-half ingredient and one-half liquid or gaseous propellant under pressure. Some contain organic solvents to dissolve or suspend substance - petroleum distillates, toluene, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and ketones. Mist particles enter the lung and then the bloodstream. There is also the danger of exploding cans.	Roll-ons, creams, sticks, non-aerosol sprays.	Aerosols are the major source of pollution in the home. They are also more expensive per application. You pay for propellant and extra materials to make the container.
	Shaving Cream		Brush and shaving soaps.	
	Glass Cleaners		Manual spray cleaners. You can make your own by adding 2 Tsp vinegar to 1 Qt. water.	
	Air Fresheners		Ventilate: or set vinegar out on open dish. Use a box of baking soda in enclosed areas, such as refrigerators or closets.	

Garden Products	Pesticides	Pesticides are poisonous and may cause serious damage to people, pets, and wildlife. They also cause other problems, such as destruction of beneficial insects, development of pest resistance, and environmental contamination.	It's often possible to control and reduce pest damage without the use of chemical pesticides. Examples of non-chemical pest management include: (1) keep a clean garden, many organisms like to live under plant debris or wood. Remove and destroy infected plants. (2) know pests so you can identify and attack the specific problem without a broad spectrum pesticide. (by using barriers, traps, etc.) (3) Encourage or introduce beneficial organisms which live off certain pests. Soapy water on leaves, then rinse.	Vigorous and healthy plants need good soil. Loose well drained, fertile, and containing organic matter. Use pest resistant plant varieties. Use correct planting techniques (correct spacing and timing, crop rotation, watering and harvesting)
	Houseplant insecticides			
	Herbicides		Hand pull weeds or mulch generously. Cover garden with plastic in fall to prevent weed germination.	
	Chemical Fertilizers	In addition to being caustic, chemical fertilizers are fast-acting, short-term boosters which may deplete soil's growing capacity with extended use.	Peat moss or compost or decayed organic matter improves the productivity of garden soil by adding essential nutrients. Organic fertilizers are high in nitrogen (blood and fish meal) and high in phosphorous (bone meal) and may be used in place of synthetic fertilizers.	
Automotive Products	Motor Oil	Motor oil, transmission and brake fluids, and antifreeze all contain poisonous chemical compounds. Motor oil also contains lead and other metals.	None	Motor oil should be taken to a service station or local waste oil recycling center. Antifreeze is sweet-tasting. Don't leave puddles where kids or pets can get to them.
	Transmission/ Brake Fluid		None	
	Antifreeze		None	
	Car Batteries	Car Batteries are highly acidic (can produce serious burns) and contain lead.	None	Check telephone book for special recycling centers.

Why be concerned about household hazardous waste?

CBE has provided you with the information in this fact sheet because many of us never stop to think that the cleaners, paints, pesticides, and oils we are accustomed to using every day are, in fact, dangerous if they are not handled safely and disposed of properly. Every landfill becomes a hazardous waste landfill when chemicals from the home are deposited with other household garbage. These chemicals can corrode through landfill linings and contaminate groundwater, lakes and streams. Spilled oil and grease, pesticides, and fertilizer can wash off yards and gardens into storm drains and streams, polluting our water. Solvents escape into the atmosphere from the normal use of cleaners, paints, and aerosol sprays, as well as from accidental spills or disposal of these products. These substances not only pollute the air, but they also return to the earth in rain, further polluting our water. Proper disposal of household hazardous waste is an individual responsibility in Illinois. While there are laws designed to regulate disposal of industrial hazardous, household hazardous wastes are specifically exempted from such regulations. If you must use a hazardous consumer product, follow these general guidelines:

Buy the minimum amount needed to complete the task. If you still end up with leftovers, give them away to someone who can use them.

Don't mix wastes, transfer them to unlabeled containers, or reuse containers which have held hazardous products.

Never use storm sewers or ditches for waste disposal.

Never burn containers of leftover chemicals.

Evaporate leftovers that cannot be used by someone else in the outdoors, wrap residue and containers in newsprint before throwing them away.