

## Household Hazardous Waste

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be household hazardous waste. Products such as oil paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides, that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, or putting them into storm sewers. These are all illegal. We are also not allowed to put these products in our regular trash. Improper disposal of these products can result in polluting the environment and in many cases the improper disposal poses a threat to human health. Also, certain types of household hazardous waste products have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers.

Each year, Americans use lots of hazardous household products, generating about 2 million tons! The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste products in the basement and garage and in storage closets.

To avoid the potential risks associated with household hazardous wastes, please remember to:

- Use and store products containing hazardous materials carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers. You should keep the products in their original containers and keep the labels on.
- You should never mix household hazardous wastes with other products or other waste products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode.
- Follow all instructions for their proper use and disposal of left over product.
- Use up products whenever possible.
- Buy only what you need for a project.
- Try using safer, less toxic products.
- Come to our household hazardous waste collection to dispose of products safely.

Obviously the best way to avoid any risks with using household hazardous products is not to use them. In some instances this can be done by using alternative and safer products. However all products should be used and stored with similar caution. Below is a list of conventional products and their safer alternative product or method.

Product Alternatives	
Drain Cleaner	Use a plunger or plumber's snake
Oven Cleaner	Clean spills as soon as the oven cools using steel wool and baking soda
Glass Cleaner	Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water. Spray on and use newspaper to wipe dry.
Toilet Bowl	Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar (this will not disinfect)

Cleaner	
Furniture Polish	Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of mineral or vegetable oil and wipe furniture
Rug Deodorizer	Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda, wait 15 minutes and vacuum
Plant Sprays	Wipe leaves with mild soap and water, rinse.
Mothballs	Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint or white peppercorns
Flea & Tick Products	Put brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food; sprinkle fennel, rue, rosemary or eucalyptus seeds or leaves around pet's sleeping area

For more information, please call the Board of Health office at (508) 660-7321.