

# Safe Alternatives to Common Household Products

Many everyday household products contain hazardous chemicals. When you dispose of these products in the storm drain, sink or garbage, the chemicals can end up in local water bodies or groundwater.

This list of alternatives is provided to help you make responsible decisions about the safe use and disposal of household products. By trying some or all of the alternatives, you will help Lane County move toward a goal of hazard-less waste.

**These few supplies can replace many cleaners:**

Baking Soda  
White Vinegar  
Olive or Almond Oil

Warm Water  
Liquid Soap  
Baby Oil

Borax  
Salt  
Margarine

Lemon Juice  
Club Soda  
Rubbing Alcohol

Toothpaste  
Flour



## For this...

All purpose cleaner
Brass polish
Car battery corrosion removal
Coffee cup stain removal
Copper cleaner
Crayon mark removal
Decal removal
Dishwashing
Disinfectants
Drain cleaner
Furniture polish
Garbage disposal deodorizer
Grout and stain cleaner
Hand cleaner: paint/grease
Laundry detergent
Linoleum floor cleaner
Mildew remover
Moths (in clothes)
Oven Cleaner
Paint (oil-based)
Porcelain stain removal
Refrigerator deodorizer
Rug/carpet cleaner
Scouring powder/abrasive cleaner
Silver cleaner
Stain removal
Stainless steel cleaner
Toilet bowl cleaner
Tub and tile cleaner
Vinyl floor cleaner
Wine stain removal
Window cleaner

## Try this...

1 tsp liquid soap, 1 tsp borax, 1/4 cup vinegar, and 1 quart warm water. Or 1/4 cup white vinegar with 1 quart warm water.
Paste of equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.
Baking soda and water
Rub with moist salt or baking soda
Paste of equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion
Rub mark with toothpaste and a damp cloth. Do not use on non-vinyl wallpaper.
Soak in hot water if practical; otherwise use white vinegar.
Washing dishes by hand with a liquid soap or mild detergent is preferable to using strong electric dishwasher detergents. Look for detergents without phosphates or chlorine.
Mix 1/2 cup borax with 1 gallon of boiling water. Or undiluted white vinegar.
Try plunger first. Then pour 1/2 cup baking soda down, then 1/2 cup vinegar; wait a few minutes, then follow with 2 quarts boiling water. Repeat if needed. If this fails, rent or buy a drain snake. Use solution weekly to prevent buildup.
Olive oil or Almond oil
Used lemons or baking soda
Paste made of baking soda and water, clean with toothbrush, spray with vinegar and water mix, after foaming is finished, rinse with water.
Baby or cooking oil or margarine, than wash with dish soap and water.
1/2 cup white vinegar or baking soda or borax per load. Or laundry soap or liquid detergent with low or no phosphate. A tablespoon of vinegar in the rinse increases the brightness.
1 cup white vinegar plus 2 gallons water.
A non-chlorinated scouring powder cleans mildew stains from grout. Scrub hard.
Thoroughly clean any used clothing or furniture before introducing into home. Wash woolens before storing; store in tight container with cedar chips, newspapers or lavender flowers (instead of mothballs). Vacuum rugs, behind and under furniture. Shake out woolens periodically.
As a preventative measure, cover the oven bottom with a sheet of aluminum foil. Clean up spills promptly. To clean, use baking soda, soap and water with a copper scrubber and lots of elbow grease. Or use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or non-caustic oven cleaner.
Latex Paint, avoid aerosols.
Brush with baking soda
Open box of baking soda
Sprinkle baking soda, then vacuum. Or clean immediately with soda water or baking soda paste, then vacuum.
Baking soda or borax. Or rub area with 1/2 lemon dipped in borax., rinse and dry
Rub gently with baking soda and damp sponge (large objects). For small objects place in pot of water on stove with small piece of aluminum foil; add 1 tsp baking soda and 1 tsp salt; boil 2-3 minutes. Or rub gently with toothpaste on a cotton ball.
Depends on type of spill. Treat as quickly as possible and blot as much liquid as you can with paper towel or cloth (don't rub). For most stains, safest to try cold water first, then hot water with a little detergent.
Baking soda
Baking soda or borax or soak with white vinegar
Use vinegar (full strength) on a sponge, then use baking soda as a scouring powder. Rinse well.
1 gallon warm water and 1/2 cup white vinegar or 1/4 cup borax
Water or rubbing alcohol. On carpet, blot first then pour salt on area, let absorb then vacuum.
1/2 cup vinegar in 1 quart warm water, wipe with crumpled newspaper.



# Five Steps To Protect Your Family's Health and The Environment

Many everyday household products contain hazardous chemicals. When you dispose of these products in the storm drain, sink or garbage, the chemicals can end up in local water bodies or groundwater.

- 1. Avoid Household products marked "Danger".** Look for the word "danger" on cleaners, polishes, paint strippers, and pesticides. "Danger" means the product could poison you, cause serious damage to your skin or eyes, or easily cause a fire.
  - Choose products marked "caution" or "warning", or better yet, products that don't need warnings.
  - Choose water-based products, such as latex paint, white glue and water-based paint stripper.
- 2. Reduce your need for yard and garden pesticides.** Pesticides are poisons. Besides killing bugs and weeds, they may also poison children, irritate eyes or skin, cause cancer or kill birds and fish.
  - Build healthy soil by adding compost or aged manure and using slow-release organic fertilizers.
  - Buy plants that will grow well in this climate and in your yard, they use less water and pesticides.
  - Try alternative products to control pests, such as Teflon tape for foot weevils or soap and water solution for aphids.
- 3. Recycle used motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze.** Used motor oil and antifreeze should never be placed in storm drains. Water from storm drains is not treated and oil could end up in our streams and lakes, threatening fish and birds. Used motor oil and antifreeze are accepted at all Lane County transfer stations. Oil filters are accepted at all transfer stations except for McKenzie Bridge.
- 4. Use less-toxic cleaners.** Some cleaners contain very hazardous ingredients that can burn your eyes, skin or lungs. Look for safer name brand substitutes at your local grocery store, or use simple alternatives. There are many everyday household products we all keep on hand that can be used for cleaning without doing damage to the environment, such as: water, vinegar, baking soda, borax, mineral oil, newspapers, and rags. (see other side for safer alternatives.)
- 5. Dispose of leftover hazardous products properly.** Careless disposal of hazardous household products can pollute the environment. See disposal methods listed below or call Lane County Waste Management Division 684-4120.

## How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Product	Hazard	Proper Disposal **
Weed killer, insecticides, slug bait, rose dust, mothballs, flea and roach powder etc.	Poisonous	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Empty pesticide containers	Poisonous residue	Rinse container 3 times. Save rinse water and use as full-strength pesticide. Containers are not recyclable. If rinsed and empty, place container in regular garbage.
Wood preservatives	Poisonous and flammable	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Paint	Flammable	Use up leftover paint: give a wall an extra coat or use as a base coat on another project. Latex paint: If only a small amount is left (one inch or less) open can and let liquid evaporate outdoors, away from children and pets. Dispose of can in the trash (leave lid off). Oil based paint: take to HHW collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Paint thinner, rust remover, turpentine, furniture stripper, other solvents	Flammable	Reuse by letting the contaminated liquids sit in a closed jar until particles settle out. Strain off the clear liquid for reuse. For the remaining sludge, take to HHW collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Used motor oil and brake fluid	Poisonous and flammable	Recycle at curbside or at Lane County transfer stations. Refer to your waste hauler's preparation standards before setting at the curb. Call 682-4120 for hours of operation and locations of transfer stations.
Antifreeze	Poisonous	Recycle at Lane County transfer stations. Call 682-4120 for hours of operation and locations of transfer stations.
Car batteries	Corrosive	Recycle at Lane County transfer stations or trade in for a new battery.
Drain openers, oven and toilet bowl cleaners, bleach	Corrosive and Poisonous	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Furniture polish, spot removers	Flammable	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Small engine fuel	Flammable	Prevent fuel from breaking down by using a fuel additive for long-term storage. Take bad fuel to Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Hobby chemicals form crafts, lab sets, photography etc.	Poisonous, flammable and corrosive	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.
Swimming pool chemicals	Corrosive and poisonous	Use up according to label directions or offer to others who can use them. If you need to dispose of it, take it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility. Call 682-3111 for an appointment.

Lane County Waste Management Division has a Household Hazardous Waste disposal facility at the Glenwood Transfer Station. Call (541) 682-3111 for an appointment.

