

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL and ALTERNATIVES CHART

KEY TO DISPOSAL CODES

- U Use up according to label directions
- **T** Wrap and discard with other household trash

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- **P** Pour down drain slowly with plenty of water
- S Save for a household hazardous waste collection program
- **D** Dry out and then discard with other household trash
- **R** Take to a Recycling center

PRODUCT	DISPOSAL	ALTERNATIVES
Cleaners		
general purpose liquid	UP	vinegar or lemon juice diluted with water; or three tablespoons washing soda in 1 quart water
scouring powder	U T	baking soda, salt, or borax
metal polishes	U S	use baking soda paste
furniture polish	US	dip cloth in olive, soybean, or raw linseed oil; or mix 2 tablespoons olive oil with 1 tablespoon vinegar and slowly stir into 1 quart water
rug cleaners	US	sprinkle baking soda on rug then vacuum; use club soda on stains

spot removers	US	clean spill quickly with club soda, or use baking soda paste on stains
toilet bowl cleaner	UP	flat cola, borax, or baking soda
oven cleaner	US	wipe up spills quickly; wash with baking soda using a scrubber; or sprinkle with baking soda or salt, let sit, and then rinse
Home Maintenance		
latex paint	U D	use whitewash or milk paint
oil-based paint	US	use latex paint when possible
paint thinner	US	let paint settle out and then reuse
glues/adhesives	U D S	use white or yellow glue; let glue dry out if it is water based; save if solvent based
drain opener	USP	prevent problems by using strainer and flushing pipes weekly with boiling water; use a plunger or snake; and put 1/2 cup each vinegar and baking soda down the drain, flushing 15 minutes later
air freshener	UT	use flowers, herbs, or potpourri; place vinegar or vanilla in an open dish; or clean the source of the odor with baking soda
degreasers	US	detergents
paint stripper	US	sand or scrape paint
Auto Repair		
motor oil	R	none
antifreeze	R P	none
gasoline	S	none; do not use as a cleaner
vehicle batteries	R	none
carburetor cleaner	S	none
Pesticides		·
bug sprays/insecticides	U* S	handpick or trap pests; keep household clean and food covered; caulk or seal entryways

weed killer	U* S	maintain a healthy lawn by adjusting the pH to 6.5, mowing high with a sharp blade, and watering deeply when the soil is too dry		
flea killers	U* S	use a flea comb, vacuum often, and wash pets bedding		
wood preservatives	U* S	use wood that is naturally resistant (cedar, honey locust, oak) and protect from dampness and insects; look for recycled plastic lumber		
disinfectant	U* S P	borax or pine oil with soap		
insect repellant	U* S	don't wear scented products outdoors; and burn citronella candles, punk, or incense		
Hobby/Miscellaneous				
photographic chemicals	USP	none		
artist paints	U S	use water-based products whenever possible		
swimming pool chemicals	USP	none		
household batteries	RST	use rechargeable batteries		
aerosols	TS	use pump or liquid; if not hazardous, wrap it up and discard with other household trash; save for a household hazardous waste collection program if it contains hazardous materials		
mothballs	US	keep garments clean; wrap in linen or seal in paper packages or cardboard boxes; use cedar chips; kill eggs by running dry garment through a warm dryer		

ALWAYS READ ALL PRODUCT LABELS CAREFULLY!

* - Do Not Use Up Pesticide Products Which Have Been Banned or Restricted

Disposal recommendations are listed in order of preference. This chart only provides a small example of the known substitutes, not all are completely non-toxic. Use all hazardous products with care. Many of the possible alternatives listed in this chart have been taken from <u>Household Hazards: A</u> <u>Guide to Detoxifying Your Home</u>, published by the League of Woman Voters of Albany County, New York.