

Household products that contain hazardous chemicals can pollute water, harm wildlife, and threaten drinking water and human health. Look for label warnings such as *flammable*, *danger*, *warning*, and *caution* on products such as leftover paint, solvents, pesticides, automotive fluids, household and automotive batteries, and aerosols. Many of these products can be recycled, recovered as fuel, or disposed of at special hazardous waste facilities. Often there are safer alternatives for hazardous materials that provide quality results at a lower cost to the consumer and the environment.

General Cleaners

Use soap and water, baking soda, and lemon juice;

Use a mixture of ½ cup vinegar and 1 cup to 1 quart of warm water;

Dissolve 4 tablespoons baking soda in 1 quart warm water;

For an abrasive cleaner, use baking soda or a non-chlorinated scouring powder;

Mix salt and vinegar together for a good surface cleaner that removes grease.

Carpet cleaners

Use a soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo. Vacuum when dry.

Drain cleaner

Pour ½ cup baking soda down drain, followed by ½ cup vinegar. Cover the drain and let sit for 15 minutes. Follow with about 2 quarts of boiling water.

Glass cleaner

Mix ¼ cup white vinegar or 2 tablespoons lemon juice with 1 quart water and store in spray bottle.

Vinyl floor cleaner

Mix 1 gallon warm water with ½ cup white vinegar

Tub and tile cleaner

Scrub surfaces with baking soda and a little water.

Air freshener

Pour vanilla extract on a cotton ball in a saucer.

Glue

Use Elmer's type white glue or yellow carpenter's glue instead of rubber cement.

Paint

Use latex water-based paints and apply with a brush or roller whenever possible.

For a more extensive list of alternatives to toxic products, contact Metro Information at (503) 234-3000 or www.oregonmetro.gov

If you have outdated, unwanted unknown or hazardous household products/chemicals you would to discard, please do not toss them in the garbage. The Columbia County Transfer Station holds

a monthly household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event on the last Saturday of each month for FREE. These hazardous products can be brought to the Transfer Station, and through the Columbia County Solid Waste Program, the unwanted products will be properly disposed or recycled. The Columbia County Solid Waste Program also provides two remote HHW collection events each year, one event in Vernonia and one event in Clatskanie.

For questions regarding household hazardous waste, feel free to contact Roy Weedman, Solid Waste Coordinator, at 503.397.7263 or roy.weedman@co.columbia.or.us