

# Household Hazardous Waste Alternatives

A Guide to Doing it right in Lawrence and Mercer Counties



### What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Many products commonly found in your home are toxic and similar to regulated hazardous waste products used or manufactured by business and industry. There are five major categories of HHW. With some examples, they include:

- House Cleaners. Oven and toilet bowl cleaners, bleach, disinfectants, etc.
- Paint Products. Oil-based paints, thinners/turpentine, strippers, and wood preservatives.
- Automotive Products. Oil, antifreeze, batteries transmission fluid, etc.
- Pesticide Products. Insecticides, herbicides, rodent poisons, flea collars and shampoos.

### Easy Alternatives to Reduce HHW.

Fortunately, there are less toxic alternatives available for some products. You can even make some of your own with these simple recipes.

**Disinfectant** - Place 1 teaspoon borax and 3 tablespoons white vinegar in spray bottle. Dissolve borax by pouring 2 cups hot water over it. Shake. Spray onto desired areas. Leave without rinsing. Vinegar will evaporate.

**General Purpose Cleaner** - 1/4 cup borax, 1/4 cup white vinegar, 2 gallons hot water. Stir to dissolve. Use mop or sponge to clean.

**Spot Remover** - Clean spill quickly. Use club soda for fruit juice, tea, gravy, ketchup, mud. Cold water immediately for blood. Lemon juice for ink, perspiration. Beaten egg whites for leather.

**Floor and Furniture Polish** - To clean use oil soap and warm water then dry. To polish use one part lemon juice and 2 parts beeswax, lemon oil or mineral oil.

**Glass Cleaner** - Spray vinegar on glass and wipe dry with newsprint.

**Drain Openers** - Baking soda and white vinegar or plunger/drain snake.

**Insecticides** - For gardens, use companion planting. Plant disease resistant seeds. Pour a line of cream of tartar, red chili pepper, paprika or dried peppermint where ants are entering the house.

**Ant Killer** - Add one part borax and one part sugar to water.

**Flea Killer** - Use a flea comb. vacuum often. Wash pet's bedding. Give pet brewers yeast garlic tablets or Vitamin B as preventative measures.

**Antifreeze** - Use less toxic propylene glycol-based antifreeze.

**Oil-Based Paints** - Use less toxic latex paint. Or use solvent-free paint, when possible.

**Household Batteries** - Buy rechargeable batteries and a charger or use solar powered substitutes. Recycle chargeable batteries instead of discarding.

**Air Freshener** - Use flowers, herbs or potpourri; place vinegar or vanilla in an open dish; or cloves and cinnamon in boiling water; or leave an open box of baking soda.

**Wood Preservatives** - Use wood resistant to rot such as cedar, locust or oak and protect from dampness and insects.

Refer to our fact sheet on **Household Hazardous Waste** to learn more

### Tips:

- Many products seem cheaper when you buy them in large quantity, but consider disposal of leftovers.
- Use up what you buy.
- Take it to a HHW collection event or operation.



Recycling/Solid Waste Department