

Hazardous materials can be found in almost all households. Some jobs around the house require using products containing hazardous substances. There are many instances, however, when we can choose a nonhazardous or less hazardous alternative product to do the same job.

- Learn about alternatives to household items containing hazardous substances. In some cases, products that you have around the house can be used to do the same job as products with hazardous components (*see information inside this brochure*).
- If you do need to use products with hazardous components, use only the amounts needed. Leftover materials can be shared with neighbors, or, in the case of used motor oil, recycled at a participating service station or retailer. Never put leftover products with hazardous components in food or beverage containers.
- For products containing hazardous components, read and follow all directions on product labels. Make sure the containers are always labelled properly and stored safely away from children and pets.

Credit for the information contained in this brochure goes to Sierra Magazine, published by the Sierra Club and the federal EPA.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING DISPOSAL

None of the hazardous materials listed inside this brochure should be placed in your ordinary garbage for disposal. Nearly all of them can be brought to the Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P. Program. To obtain a current S.T.O.P. Program schedule, which lists what can and cannot be accepted by our contractor, call (516) 677-5943.

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CHOOSING LESS HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

To Use In Your Household



The Department of
Environmental Resources
(516) 677-5943

www.OysterBayTown.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE REFERENCE CHART

SUBSTANCE	PROBLEM	ALTERNATIVES
PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES		
Rodent Bait	Lethal to humans and pets in minute quantities, such as one taste	Cats; traps; chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins
Insect Repellent	Poisonous; one teaspoonful may be lethal to an adult	Screens; protective clothing; creams or lotions are occasionally effective
Garden Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides, etc.	Poisonous; can persist in the environment; especially hazardous around food plants	Strong hosing or hand picking; keep garden clean; use "natural" insecticides such as pyrethrins or predators such as ladybugs
HOME & PERSONAL PRODUCTS		
Drain Cleaners	Poisonous; can cause serious burns; may contain carcinogens	Boiling water; plunger; metal snake
Oven Cleaners	Poisonous; can cause serious burns; may contain carcinogens; spray cans most dangerous	Salt; quarter cup of ammonia overnight
Toilet Cleaners	Poisonous; can cause serious burns; one teaspoonful may be lethal to an adult	Mild detergent or small amounts of bleach
Spot Removers	Poisonous; most are solvent-based; may be carcinogenic	Immediate cold water and detergent; rubbing alcohol or a little acetone
Silver Polishes	Poisonous; may contain carcinogens; one ounce may be lethal to an adult	Soak silver in water with baking soda, salt and small piece of aluminum foil
Furniture Polishes	Include various poisonous solvents; one ounce may be lethal to an adult	Mineral oil with lemon oil (<i>but this may strip finish</i>) or Carnauba wax
Cleaners & Powder Cleaners	Strong oxidizers; poisonous; can cause burns	Baking soda and mild detergent; elbow grease
Window Cleaners	Contain harmful chemical compounds and sometimes carcinogens; may cause birth defects	Vinegar and water
Mothballs	Contain poisonous chemical compounds	Cedar chips; newspapers; wrap wool clothing in plastic bags during warm seasons
Bleach & Liquid Cleaners	Contain strong oxidizers; can cause burns	Use powder, not liquid bleach
Dyes	Poisonous, especially to kids; don't use cooking utensils when dyeing; may be carcinogenic	Use vegetable dyes such as onion skins, teas, marigolds
AUTOMOTIVE & PAINT PRODUCTS		
Motor Oil, Brake & Transmission Fluid	Contain poisonous chemical compounds; oil also has lead, other metals; fluid may be lethal	None
Antifreeze	Sweet-tasting, poisonous, may be lethal; don't leave puddles where kids, pets can get to them	None
Car Batteries	Contain lead and are highly acidic (<i>can produce serious burns</i>)	None
Paints	Contain solvents and other poisonous chemical compounds	None; use water-based (<i>latex</i>) paint if possible; avoid aerosol sprays
Lacquer, Varnish, Thinner & Stripper	Poisonous; solvent-based; some are flammable and carcinogenic	None, except for stripper; sand off old finish in well-ventilated area

