



Maintaining the Home

Household Hazardous Waste

Maintaining the Home: Household Hazardous Waste

Proper use, care and disposal of hazardous household cleaning products is important for the user's safety and for the preservation of the environment. In some cases, alternative procedures can be used to handle common household tasks so that hazardous products need not be used.

The chart below discusses selected household products, alternatives, harmful effects and disposal options. For additional information, contact your local county extension office.

Product	Alternatives	Harmful Effects	Disposal Options
Drain, Oven and Toilet Cleaners	Prevent clogged drains by pouring boiling water down drain weekly; clean with vinegar, baking soda, boiling water; use plunger; clean toilets & ovens with salt, baking soda, water & elbow grease; use small dish of ammonia standing overnight to loosen stains.	Some can burn skin; mixing drain & toilet cleaners: ammonia and bleach creates deadly gas; see 1, 2, 4.	Drain & toilet cleaners: Oven cleaners: A, B
Furniture & Shoe Polish	Polishes without trichloroethylene, methylene chloride or nitrobenzene; many recipes available including 1 pint mineral oil with 1 tsp. lemon oil (may strip finish).	Short Term: irritate and damage skin eyes, lungs; cause nausea, poisoning. Long term: cause allergies, nervous system disorders; damage kidneys and lungs: see 1, 2, 3, 4 in the key.	See A, B, C.
Mothballs	Cedar chips; sachets of herbs such as lavender, bay	Poisonous fumes cause headaches, nausea; see 1, 2, 3, 4.	See A, B, E. Never D!
Oil based Paints (including spray)	Latex paint	Irritate eyes, skin, lungs; cause headaches, nausea, require solvents to clean up tools see 1, 3, 4.	See A, B, C, E.
Paint Remover & Other Solvents	No substitutes for most solvents; instead of paint remover, sand off old paint or use heat gun (wear goggles and mask); never use gasoline as a solvent	See furniture & shoe polish	See A, B.

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Pesticides Herbicides Insecticide Fungicides	Soapy water (use 1 tbsp. of insecticidal soap per gallon of water to kill aphids, mites); citronella to repel many insects; use natural predators; pull weeds; remove breeding areas; keep areas clean and litter free.	Can be absorbed through skin and by breathing; cause headaches, nausea, fatigue, tensions; see 1, 2, 3, 4.	See A, B, E. Never D!! Only use A for old, banned or restricted pesticides
Used Motor Oil & Car Batteries	No alternatives available; wear gloves & goggles when handling.	Some poisons in used oil may be absorbed through skin, eyes; see 1,2,3,4 for oil; see 4 for acid	Oil: recycle at gas station or at store or A; never C, D. Battery (including battery acid): return to place of purchase or A.
Window Cleaners, Ammonia Cleaners, Bleach, Powdered Cleansers	Baking soda instead of powdered cleansers & ammonia cleaners; non-chlorinated powder bleach instead of liquid bleach, try borax; use 2 tbsp. vinegar & 1 qt. water instead of window cleaners; and elbow grease.	Some can burn skin; mixing ammonia and bleach creates deadly gas; see 1, 2, 4	Powdered cleansers, window cleaners: C. Ammonia cleansers: A, B, D.

Key to Letters and Numbers	IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL
<p>1 Deadly if swallowed 2 May cause cancer 3 Flammable 4 Causes air or water pollution</p> <p>A Turn in on toxic waste collection day.</p> <p>B Use it all up and dispose of container as in step C.</p> <p>C Wrap container in lots of newspaper, place in plastic bag and put out with the trash.</p> <p>D Dilute leftovers with water and pour down sink. Do not do this if you have a septic tank!</p> <p>E Share leftovers with neighbors.</p>	<p>The New Mexico Poison Center 1 (800) 432 6866</p> <p>For more information call your county extension office.</p>

This material was adapted from publications produced by New Mexico State University. NMSU Cooperative Extension publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

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Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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