



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



- U** - Use up according to label directions
- T** - Wrap and discard with other household trash
- 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	U P	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	U S	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	U S	sprinkle baking soda on rug then vacuum; use club soda on stains

spot removers	U S	clean spill quickly with club soda, or use baking soda paste on stains
toilet bowl cleaner	U P	flat cola, borax, or baking soda
oven cleaner	U S	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	U S	use latex paint when possible
paint thinner	U S	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	U S P	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	U T	use flowers, herbs, or potpourri; place vinegar or vanilla in an open dish; or clean the source of the odor with baking soda
degreasers	U S	detergents
paint stripper	U S	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 repellent	U* S	don't wear scented products outdoors; and burn citronella candles, punk, or incense
Hobby/Miscellaneous		
photographic chemicals	U S P	none
artist paints	U S	use water-based products whenever possible
swimming pool chemicals	U S P	none
household batteries	R S T	use rechargeable batteries
aerosols	T S	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	U S	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 *Household Hazards: A Guide to Detoxifying Your Home*, published by the League of Woman Voters of Albany County, New York.