

## Shopping List

Common ingredients used for safer alternatives:

- Baking soda
- Biodegradable liquid soap
- Borax
- Salt
- White vinegar

## Safe Alternatives to HHW

- **Air Fresheners**  
Set vinegar or a cotton ball soaked in vanilla extract out in open dish.  
Use an open box of baking soda in the refrigerator.
- **All-Purpose Cleaner**  
1 quart warm water  
1 tsp liquid soap  
1 tsp borax  
1/4 cup undiluted white vinegar  
Mix ingredients and store in a spray bottle.  
Use for cleaning countertops, floors, walls, carpets, and upholstery.
- **Ant Control**  
Use cream of tartar.
- **Copper Cleaner**  
Use vinegar with salt and rub.
- **Disinfectants**  
Dilute bleach: 1/4 cup to 1-quart water.
- **Drain Openers**  
Pour baking soda and vinegar down drain, followed by boiling water.  
Use plunger or metal snake to discharge.
- **Fighting Silverfish**  
Make traps with mixture of 1 part molasses to 2 parts vinegar.  
Place near cracks/holes where pests live.  
Repel silverfish by applying mixture of borax and sugar/honey to baseboards and cupboards.

- **Flea Repellant**  
Use lavender oil, fennel, rosemary, red cedar shavings, sassafras, eucalyptus or pennyroyal leaves as flea repellent under and around the pet's bed or sleeping area.
- **Floor/Furniture Polish**  
Use soap and water with a soft cloth.  
Use hard wax melted into mineral oil.
- **Glass Cleaners**  
Use 8 parts of water mixed with 1 part of vinegar.
- **Mothballs**  
Place cedar chips around clothes.
- **Oven Cleaners**  
Use baking soda to scrub.  
Sprinkle salt when warm and scrub.
- **Paints**  
Use latex or water-based paints that do not require thinners, if possible.
- **Rat Poison**  
Use mechanical-snap or glue traps.
- **Roach Spray**  
Use boric acid with sugar.
- **Rug & Upholstery Cleaners**  
Use soap based non-aerosol rug shampoos.  
Sprinkle cornstarch on rug.
- **Rubber Cement**  
Use Elmer's-type white glue or yellow carpenter's glues for wood, china, paper, and other porous materials.
- **Snail/Slug Bait**  
Pour beer in a shallow pan and place in infested area.
- **Toilet Bowl Cleaners**  
Use baking soda, borax, or bleach.  
Use a pumice stone for hard water spots.

# The "Dos and Don'ts" of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)



Storm Water Management  
Educational Series

## What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Hazardous materials and their waste are not only found in truck tanks, factories, and dumps—they can also often be found in the cabinet right under your kitchen sink.

The average home contains between three and ten gallons of materials that are classified as hazardous. Some examples of household hazardous waste (HHW) are listed below.

- Aerosol products
- Batteries
- Bug spray/insect killer
- Charcoal lighter fluid
- Degreasers
- Fertilizers
- Flea control products
- Fuels/gasoline
- Furniture stripper
- Glue with solvents
- Mothballs
- Nail polish/remover
- Oil/solvent-based paints/stains
- Oven cleaner
- Paint thinner
- Personal hygiene products
- Pool chemicals
- Roach/ant killer
- Rodent bait
- Rust/spot removers
- Thermometers (mercury)
- Wood preservatives

## When disposing of HHW...

- **Don't** put them in your household garbage/trash. Doing so could:
  - Hurt the garbage hauler.
  - Damage the garbage/trash truck.
  - Seep into our groundwater or into the Bay from the landfill.
- **Don't** dump them down storm drains or into creeks.
  - Storm drains send water directly to our creeks, rivers, or Bay without treatment.
  - Toxics poison the fish and can end up in our drinking water supply.
- **Don't** pour them down your sink or toilet.
  - A chemical reaction could cause an explosion in the underground pipes.
  - Chemicals may pass through the treatment plant untreated and on into the Bay.
- **Don't** pour them on the ground.

### Risks of HHW

Some products give off fumes that can leave you feeling dizzy or lightheaded. Some of these products are also **TOXIC, FLAMMABLE** or **CORROSIVE**. Always keep your HHW away from children and pets.



Cleaning products and other HHWs should never be mixed; mixing products could create a deadly chemical reaction.



HHW also poses a risk to our water supply. Pouring chemicals down the drain or toilet, onto the ground, or into storm drains and septic tanks creates a dangerous environmental problem.



### **DO:**

- Use up all of the product.
- Give useable, leftover products to friends or neighbors, or donate to community groups.
- Take unwanted products and potentially dangerous waste to a HHW disposal program.

### Recycling Your HHW

Many HHW products are reusable/recyclable.

- **Paint Cans**  
Must be empty and may only contain a thin layer of paint on the sides and bottom  
Accepted at Metro Recycling Drop-off Center
- **Batteries**  
General purpose household batteries are accepted at Metro Recycling Drop-off Center, Mobile County Recycling Center and Dueitt's Battery Supply.  
Car batteries are accepted at most auto parts stores and maintenance centers.  
Many other kinds of batteries are accepted at Radio Shack, Best Buy, Lowes, Home Depot, Sears, Staples, Batteries Plus, Dueitt's Battery Supply, and Battery Source.

### HHW Collection Day

The City of Mobile joins forces with the Mobile County Commission to host an HHW Collection Day. Contact **Keep Mobile Beautiful** (251-208-6029) for information.