

What are Hazardous Household Chemicals?

Some jobs around the home may require the use of products containing hazardous chemicals. These products include:

<i>air freshener</i>	<i>hair color</i>
<i>all-purpose cleaner</i>	<i>hair permanent</i>
<i>aluminum cleaner</i>	<i>hair spray</i>
<i>ammonia</i>	<i>herbicide</i>
<i>anti-bacterial cleaner</i>	<i>insecticide</i>
<i>antifreeze</i>	<i>insect repellent</i>
<i>bleach (chlorine)</i>	<i>lye</i>
<i>carpet cleaner</i>	<i>mildew remover</i>
<i>detergent</i>	<i>mothballs</i>
<i>drain cleaner</i>	<i>nail polish remover</i>
<i>dry cleaning fluid</i>	<i>oven cleaner</i>
<i>dyes</i>	<i>paint</i>
<i>fertilizer</i>	<i>paint & varnish remover</i>
<i>flea and tick spray</i>	<i>pool chemicals</i>
<i>floor cleaner</i>	<i>septic tank cleaner</i>
<i>foggers</i>	<i>shoe polish</i>
<i>fuels</i>	<i>vehicle products</i>
<i>furniture cleaner</i>	<i>windshield wiper solution</i>
<i>glues & adhesives</i>	<i>wood stains and finishes</i>

Each year, more than 150,000 calls to poison centers involve pesticides and cleaners. More than half of toxic pesticide exposures involve children five years old and younger. The most common toxic chemicals children are exposed to are pesticides, fuels (e.g., lamp oil, lighter fluid), and cleaning products.



Safe Alternatives

Everyday activities, such as cleaning, car maintenance, lawn care, hobbies, and home improvement projects, are often done using toxic products. Many times, you can do these activities using non-toxic or less toxic alternatives. Below is a list of common household products that may be hazardous, and some safer alternatives.

Abrasive Cleaner: Rub the area with cut lemon dipped in borax, then rinse.

Air Freshener/Deodorizer: Sprinkle baking soda in odor producing areas or set vinegar out in an open dish. Try an orange studded with cloves, or cinnamon and cloves.

Ant Killer (house): Locate ant entry point and seal with caulk. Use traps instead of sprays. Kill visible ants with soapy water. Discourage entry with chili powder.

Ant Killer (yard): Drench mound with boiling water. If ants remain, use an insect growth regulator that causes sterility in the queen and developing youth.

Brass Polish: Use paste of equal parts vinegar, salt, and flour or use Worcestershire sauce. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.

Car Battery Corrosion Removal: Use baking soda and water.

Chrome Polish: Use vinegar.

Copper Cleaner: Use paste of equal parts vinegar, salt, and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.

Drain Cleaner: Try a plunger first. Then pour mixture of 1 cup each of baking soda, salt, and white vinegar. Wait 15 minutes and then flush with boiling water.

Fertilizer: Use compost.

Furniture Polish: Use olive oil or almond oil. Also, try 2 teaspoons of lemon oil and 1 pint mineral oil in a spray bottle.

Garbage Disposal Deodorizer: Add lemon or lime peels or baking soda.

Glass Cleaner: Mix equal amounts of water and vinegar in a spray bottle. Wipe with newspaper.

Floor Wax/Stripper: To remove old wax, use club soda, scrub well, let soak, and wipe clean. Polish with a clean, soft, dry cloth.

Hand Cleaner (Paint/Grease): Use baby oil or margarine, and then wash with soap and water.

Linoleum Floor Cleaner: Use 1 cup white vinegar plus 2 gallons water.

Linoleum Floor Polish: Use skim milk.

Mothballs: Place cedar near clothes or store clothes in a cedar chest.

Mold/Mildew Cleaner: Mix water and vinegar in a spray bottle.

Oven Cleaner: Scrub baked on grease and spills with baking soda, salt, and water paste.

Roach Killer: Mix baking soda with powdered sugar.

Safe Alternatives (cont.)

Silver Cleaner: Rub gently with baking soda and damp sponge. Place small objects in pot of water with a small piece of aluminum foil, and 1 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon salt, and boil 2-3 minutes. Wash in soapy water and polish dry. *Not for use on silver jewelry, silver items with glued components, or flatware with hollow handles.*

Spot Remover: Use club soda. For butter, coffee, gravy, and chocolate stains, dab with a solution of 1 teaspoon white vinegar and 1 quart cold water. For set stains, apply solution of equal parts ammonia and water. If an ammonia stain remains, blot a solution of table salt and water.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Scrub with baking soda or castile soap.

Tub and Tile Cleaner: Use 1/4 cup white vinegar mixed with warm water.

Wall Cleaner: Mix 1/2 cup borax, 2 teaspoons dishwashing liquid, and 1 gallon warm water.

Window Cleaner: Mix 3 tablespoons ammonia, 1 tablespoon of white vinegar, and 3/4 cup water in a spray bottle.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Chemical Hazards Program
Environmental Health Branch
Georgia Department of Public Health
(404) 657-6534

www.dph.ga.gov/chemical-hazards

Sustainability Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
(404) 651-5120 or (800) 685-2443
www.gasustainability.org

Keep Georgia Beautiful
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/hhw.htm

SAFE ALTERNATIVES

to Common Household Chemicals



CHEMICAL HAZARDS PROGRAM
Environmental Health Section

