

## HOUSEHOLD CLEANSERS

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### Issue

Everything we put down the drain ends up on our watershed<sup>A</sup> and as such, every item that is washed down the sink, flushed down the toilet, dumped down a storm drain, or even placed in our garbage receptacles<sup>1</sup> can affect the health of the people, land, plants, animals, and water quality in and around Long Island Sound. So, when you toss out the chlorine and water mixture you used as a disinfectant, it can wind up in the Sound harming the marine life, but keep in mind it could have affected the health of you and your family first!

*So how do these cleansers we use everyday affect the water quality of the Sound?*

### The Problem with Household Cleansers

Have you ever noticed that when you walk down the household cleanser aisle in the grocery store your eyes begin to burn, or your nose becomes irritated? This is because these household cleansers contain hazardous toxins<sup>B</sup> that are fatal to your nervous system, kidneys, liver, lungs and eyes. These cleansers, even while stored, can affect the air quality in your home. Click here for common hazardous cleansers to avoid and the reasons why<sup>C</sup>.

Most commercial household cleansers are chemically based, meaning that they contain hazardous substances that are not only harmful to the natural environment, but to humans and animals. The three primary ways household hazardous products impact our health and the environment are through their manufacture, usage, and disposal. When one purchases a hazardous product for the home, it creates a market for these toxic chemicals. This in turn leads to the further development, manufacture and transportation of these chemicals. This process in and of itself has the potential to result in harmful effects, and this is before you ever open the container. Once we open the container to use the substance, the vapors released and the water contaminated can have an unhealthy effect on humans, marine life and water and air quality. Long after the need to use that cleansing agent, these products still have lasting effects. Once disposed of, they “release chemicals into the ground and wastewater stream which may contaminate our groundwater and present a problem to wastewater treatment facilities. Most often hazardous products are not disposed of properly and are landfilled or incinerated where they release their toxins to the environment.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> If you throw household hazardous waste in the garbage, toxic leachate accumulates at landfill sites.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.healthgoods.com/Shopping/Household\\_Products.htm](http://www.healthgoods.com/Shopping/Household_Products.htm)

*For information on specific household chemicals and their effects click here<sup>D</sup>*

Substances dumped down drains and toilets within the home filter through septic systems or sewage treatment facilities<sup>E</sup>. Many substances are broken down through this process and remain relatively safe for the natural environment. Chemical household cleansers on the other hand, do not breakdown and are discharged onto the watershed and thus, into the Sound. This discharge, containing organic chemicals, can damage water quality while harming plant and animal life. When, not if, these chemicals reach our streams, rivers, and lakes, they can kill or cause chronic problems, such as cancers, lesions, and infertility in aquatic wildlife. “Hazardous household cleansers can disrupt the natural biological processes taking place in a septic system. In addition, not all of the toxins in sewage hauled from a holding tank or flushed down the toilet into a sewer system will be removed at a sewage treatment facility. Proper disposal can minimize the amount of contaminants reaching our rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater.”<sup>3</sup> Every amount of hazardous material that is disposed of properly is another step closer to a cleaner environment.<sup>F</sup>

*So what is one to do?*

#### **ALTERNATIVES TO HOUSEHOLD CLEANSERS**

Although, chemical based household cleansers are harmful to human, animal and environmental health, there are ways to keep a house clean without the use of these harmful toxic substances. The fact is, commercial, name brand, chemical-based household cleansers have only been around for about fifty years. Despite the fact that these cleansers have only been around for a short time, home cleaning has been around much longer. Simple, less toxic, cost-effective, common household substances have been used as cleansers long before chemical-based cleansers were produced.<sup>G</sup> Some of these non-toxic, cost-effective alternatives include: vinegar, borax, salt, herbs, olive oil, cornstarch, lemon juice and baking soda. These substances have proven to be effective, safer for humans, pets, and the environment.

#### ***Actions to take for a safer home and a cleaner environment***

- Buy less commercial household cleansers
- Look at product labels<sup>H</sup>
- Follow cleaning instructions carefully
- Keep unused products in their original containers so the label can be referred to for product use and disposal.
- Use less and dilute
- Purchase non-toxic cleansers
- Use homemade non-toxic cleansers<sup>I</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Household Hazardous Waste- <http://www.gov.mb.ca/environ/pages/publs97/cwgtext/hhprods.html>  
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- Be an “aware” shopper<sup>J</sup>
- Replace your toxic cleansers with natural alternatives

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

#### *Fast Facts on Household Cleansers<sup>K</sup>*

##### *Effects of chemical-based household cleansers on the human body*

- <http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/safe-fs.html>)

##### *Volatile Organic Compounds*

- <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html>

##### *Fact Sheet: Safe Substitutes at Home: Non-toxic Household Products*

- <http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/safe-fs.html>

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### <sup>A</sup> **Long Island Sound Watershed**

#### **Estuaries**

Long Island Sound is an estuary. An estuary is a tidal body of water that is fed by both salt and fresh water sources. Estuaries are partially sheltered water sources that are protected by land from harsh winds, and storms, that occur in oceans. Because of this protection, estuaries are perfect habitats for marine creatures in early stages of development. Estuaries are special because they act as transition habitats for marine animals moving from fresh water sources to ocean habitats. They also act as temporary homes or resting places for many creatures such as migratory birds and mammals, and as breeding grounds for many fish and other wildlife, and as permanent homes to shellfish and finfish. Tens of thousands of species can be found in an estuary. Many types of birds, fish, and mammals depend on estuaries for survival.

Estuaries are important because they are among the most productive systems on earth. Due to the unique water chemistry, many habitats are created. The mixture of salt and fresh water, tidal conditions, and shelter from harsh atmospheric conditions, create a unique and critical habitat for the survival of many marine species. Habitats are very diverse in estuaries ranging from less to concentrated saline areas, rocky shores to sandy beaches, mud flats to coral reefs, shallow harbors to deeper open waters, and regularly flushed areas to more stagnant enclosed areas.

#### **Long Island Sound**

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Long Island Sound is bordered by New York and Connecticut. It is approximately 110 miles long and at its widest point reaches 21 miles. It is unusual in that it connected to the ocean at opposite ends: “the Race” at its eastern end, and the East River at its west end. (Most estuaries have only one connection to the ocean.) Long Island Sound’s salt-water source is the Atlantic Ocean; its fresh water is from all of the rivers that drain to it, but the most significant fresh water sources are the Housatonic, Connecticut, and Thames Rivers.

Over 5,000,000,000 dollars is generated from activities related to Long Island Sound, including sport fishing, boating, swimming, and beach-going as well as commercial fishing. Long Island Sound’s oyster fishery is one of the largest in the United States, generating 95% of the Nation’s oysters.

### **Long Island Sound Watershed**

Although Long Island Sound itself is 110 miles long, its watershed covers more than 16,000 square miles – an area the size of Delaware times eight. Long Island Sound’s watershed covers all of Connecticut and parts of New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and a small portion of Quebec, Canada. It is estimated that 8,000,000 people live within Long Island Sound’s watershed. Because of the large human population in the watershed, human impacts are high.

We all live in a watershed. Watersheds consist of a network of land and water that eventually join at one location, much like the branches of a tree come together at its trunk. Watersheds channel water from rain, snow, and ice and from underground sources to larger bodies of water. Watersheds are the land that water flows across as it makes its way to gutters, streams, bays, lakes, and rivers, and out to estuaries and eventually the ocean. In this process, nutrients are picked up and deposited into these bodies of water as well as on the land along the way. Watersheds can be small or large; the Long Island Sound watershed is large, but consists of a network of many smaller watersheds. Because watersheds are networks, changes to one watershed will affect others downstream.

Due to the significant human population in Long Island Sound’s watershed, human-induced activities have a detrimental effect on water quality in the Sound. Humans have altered the land in the watershed, reduced open spaces, and have caused both point and non-point types of pollution in the watershed and in the Sound.

Point-source pollution is pollution from a specific source. It is the type of pollution that is discharged from a pipe from a factory, industrial site, or sewage

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treatment plant. It is the image most commonly associated with pollution. Although point-source pollution is an important issue concerning Long Island Sound and other water bodies, another type of pollution has an even greater negative effect – non-point source pollution.

Non-point source pollution, or “people pollution”, cannot be associated with a distinct source but comes from many diffuse sources. It is a product of human activities, such as driving and washing automobiles and boats, maintaining lawns and gardens, constructing buildings and homes, altering the land, improper disposal of hazardous chemicals, and failing septic systems. These actions directly and indirectly affect the water quality of nearby waters that, in turn, will travel to the Sound. Because Long Island Sound’s watershed is large and highly populated, the amount of non-point source pollution entering water bodies that drain into Long Island Sound is quite significant.

Non-point source pollution causes many of the same problems as point-source pollution, the only differences are that it is difficult to pinpoint its exact source and that it is far more difficult to prevent. Non-point source pollution adds extra nutrients, sediment, bacteria, toxins, and heavy metals to the Sound. This can stress and kill organisms and it adds to poor water quality resulting in such problems as hypoxia.

### **Why protect Long Island Sound?**

Long Island Sound provides more than five billion dollars to the region’s economy. People enjoy the recreational, economic, and aesthetic values of Long Island Sound, which are part of the region’s culture. The Long Island Sound estuary not only provides recreational, economic, and aesthetic values, but it supports a wide variety of habitats. These habitats provide food and shelter for plants and animals as well as protect humans from the full force of storms. As more and more people choose to live and vacation in the region, human impacts to the Sound will also increase. It is critical that humans evaluate their activities at home and work to minimize their impact on the watershed and the Sound. The Sound is an important to the region’s natural, recreational, and economic vitality; it is the region’s greatest natural resource. It is our responsibility to protect and restore it so that it remains viable for future generations.

## <sup>B</sup> HAZARDOUS TOXINS

There are a handful of properties that can help you distinguish if a product is hazardous. Materials that are considered toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive, explosive and radioactive are hazardous materials. These properties are

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considered dangerous and harmful to human and/or environmental health. Products labelled with one or more of these properties can be poisonous, cause illness, damage skin, eyes, and nasal passages, and can cause fatal liver, kidney and nervous system damage. These reactions can occur through short and long term inhalation, skin contact, and ingestion. Hazardous substances are found in common household supplies such as: chlorine bleach, ammonia, drain cleaners, oven cleaners and other common household cleaners, gasoline, paint and paint thinner, pesticides and more.

## <sup>C</sup> HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS TO AVOID<sup>C</sup>

### **Alkylphenols and their derivatives**

- Alkylphenol Ethoxylates are found in some laundry detergents, disinfecting cleaners, all-purpose cleaners, spot removers, hair colors and other hair-care products, and spermicides. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)
- Alkylphenol Ethoxylates form Alkylphenols during their environmental breakdown. These phenols are slow to bio-degrade and have been shown to disrupt the endocrine systems of fish, birds, and mammals. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

### **Ammonia**

Eye irritant, can cause headaches and lung irritation. If mixed with chlorine, it releases toxic chloramine gas. Short-term exposure to chloramine gas may cause mild asthmatic symptoms or more serious respiratory problems. (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

### **Chlorine (Sodium hypochlorite)**

- In paper products, like toilet paper and paper towels, chlorine bleach causes the formation of dioxin, an extremely toxic and persistent chemical known to cause cancer and disrupt the endocrine system. Customers can find chlorine-free paper products from virtually any natural food stores.
- In cleaning products, chlorine bleach, or sodium hypochlorite, is a lung and eye irritant and if mixed with ammonia or acid-based cleaners (including vinegar), chlorine bleach releases toxic chloramine gas. Short-term exposure to this gas may cause mild asthmatic symptoms or more serious respiratory problems. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

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- DO NOT mix chlorine bleach with anything- or even better avoid chlorine bleach altogether. The EPA recommends using non-chlorine bleaches such as hydrogen peroxide to bleach clothes.

**Formaldehyde** (a preservative in many products):

Suspected human carcinogen; strong irritant to eyes, throat, skin, and lungs.  
(Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

**Hydrochloric Acid or Sodium Acid Sulfate** (found in toilet bowl cleaners)

Either can burn the skin or cause vomiting diarrhea and stomach burns if swallowed; also can cause blindness if inadvertently splashed in the eyes.  
(Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

**Naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene** (found in mothballs)

Naphthalene is a suspected human carcinogen that may damage eyes, blood, liver, kidneys, skin, and the central nervous system; paradichlorobenzene can harm the central nervous system, liver, and kidneys. (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

**Nitrobenzene** (found in furniture and floor polishes):

causes skin discoloration, shallow breathing, vomiting, and death; associated with cancer and birth defects.

**Perchloroethylene or 1-1-1 trichloroethane solvents** (found in spot removers and carpet cleaners)

Can cause liver and kidney damage if ingested; perchloroethylene is an animal carcinogen and suspected human carcinogen. (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

**Petroleum distillates** (found in metal polishes):

Short-term exposure can cause temporary eye clouding; longer exposure can damage the nervous system, skin, kidneys, and eyes.

**Phenol and Cresol** (found in disinfectants):

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Phenol (fe-nol) is a caustic poisonous crystalline compound derived from benzene and used in resins (like those found in the plywood, construction, automotive, and appliance industries), plastics, and pharmaceuticals.

- Some Effects:
  - Phenol is considered to be very toxic to humans through oral exposure, with ingestion of 1 g reported to be lethal, with symptoms including muscle weakness and tremors, loss of coordination, paralysis, convulsions, coma, and respiratory arrest
  - Blood changes, liver and kidney damage, and cardiac toxicity including weak pulse, cardiac depression, and reduced blood pressure have been reported in humans acutely exposed to phenol by the oral route.
  - In Animal reduced fetal body weights, growth retardation, and abnormal development in the offspring of animals exposed to phenol by the oral route was reported. Decreased maternal weight gain and increased maternal mortality were also observed.

Long-term inhalation exposure to phenol in animal studies has shown effects on the liver, kidney, respiratory, cardiovascular, and central nervous systems<sup>C</sup>

## Phosphates

[0]Phosphates are minerals that act as water softeners. However, they also act as fertilizers which is why when phosphates are discharged into rivers, lakes, estuaries, and oceans they can cause a rapid growth of algae, resulting in pollution of the water.

Some phosphate-free alternatives are available and hand dishwashing liquids do not contain phosphates. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

## Volatile organic compounds [0]

Some of the hazardous volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that frequently pollute indoor air, such as toluene, styrene, xylenes, and trichloroethylene, may be emitted from aerosol products, dry-cleaned clothing, cleaners and air fresheners. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

High levels of toluene can put pregnant woman at risk of having babies with neurological problems, retarded growth, and developmental problems. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

Other VOCs, such as xylene, ketones, and aldehydes, are found in many aerosol products and air fresheners. Recent research found that babies less than six months old in homes where air fresheners are used on most days had 30 percent

more ear infections than those exposed less than once a week.  
(Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

Babies frequently exposed to aerosols had a 22 percent increase in diarrhea, and pregnant women frequently exposed to these products had 25 percent more headaches and a 19 percent increase in postnatal depression compared to those less frequently exposed.

Paints, cleaners, and other products with no or very low levels of VOCs and other hazardous ingredients are available. (Source: Washington Toxics Coalition)

**D HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS AND THEIR HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS**

Product type	Possible ingredients	Potential hazards
<b>Air Freshener and Deodorizer</b>	Formaldehyde	Toxic; carcinogen; irritant to eyes, nose, throat, and skin; may cause nausea, headaches, nosebleeds, dizziness, memory loss, and shortness of breath.
<b>Bleach</b>	Sodium hypochlorite	Corrosive, irritates or burns skin, eyes, respiratory tract; may cause pulmonary edema or vomiting and coma if ingested; contact with other chemicals may cause chlorine fumes.
<b>Disinfectant</b>	Sodium hypochlorite	Corrosive; irritates or burns skin, eyes; may cause pulmonary edema or vomiting and coma if ingested.
	<a href="#">Phenols</a> <sup>[0]</sup>	Flammable; very toxic; respiratory, circulatory, or cardiac damage.
	Ammonia	Vapor irritating to eyes, respiratory tract, and skin; possible chronic irritation.
<b>Drain Cleaner</b>	Sodium or potassium hydroxide (lye)	Caustic; irritant; inhibits reflexes; burns to skin, eyes; poisonous if swallowed due to severe tissue damage.

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	Hydrochloric acid	Corrosive; irritant; damage to kidney, liver, and digestive system.
	Trichloroethane	Irritant to nose and eyes; central nervous system depression; liver and kidney damage if ingested.
<b>Flea Powder</b>	Carbaryl	Very toxic; interferes with human nervous system; may cause skin, respiratory system, cardiovascular system damage.
	Dichlorophene	Skin irritation; may damage liver, kidney, spleen, and central nervous system.
	Chlordane and other chlorinated hydrocarbons	Very slow biodegradation; accumulates in food chain; may damage eyes, lungs, liver, kidneys, and skin.
<b>Floor Cleaner Wax</b>	Diethylene glycol	Toxic; causes central nervous system depression and kidney, liver lesions.
	Petroleum solvents	Highly flammable; associated with skin and lung cancer; irritant to skin, eyes, nose, throat, lungs.
	Ammonia	Vapor irritation to eyes, respiratory tract, and skin; possible chronic irritation.
<b>Furniture Polish</b>	Petroleum distillates or mineral spirits	Highly flammable; moderately toxic; associated with skin and lung cancer; irritant to skin, eyes, nose, throat, lungs; entry into lungs may cause pulmonary edema.
<b>Oven Cleaner</b>	Sodium or potassium hydroxide (lye)	Caustic; irritant; inhibits reflexes; burns to skin, eyes; poisonous if swallowed due to severe tissue damage.

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<b>Paint Thinner</b>	Chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons	Slow decomposition; liver and kidney damage.
	Esters	Toxicity varies with specific chemical; causes eye, nose, and throat irritation and anesthesia.
	Alcohols	Volatile and flammable; eye, nose, and throat irritation.
	Chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons	Flammable; toxic; accumulate in food chain.
	Ketones	Flammable; toxicity varies with specific chemical; may cause respiratory ailments.
<b>Paint</b>	Aromatic hydrocarbon thinners	Flammable; skin irritant; benzene is a carcinogen; possible liver and kidney damage.
	Mineral spirits	Highly flammable; skin, eye, nose, throat, lung irritant; very high air concentrations may cause unconsciousness, death.
<b>Spot Remover</b>	Perchlorethylene or trichloroethane	Slow decomposition; liver and kidney damage; perchlorethylene is suspected carcinogen.
	Ammonium hydroxide	Corrosive; vapor extremely irritable to skin, eyes, and respiratory passages; ingestion causes tissue burns.
	Sodium hypochlorite	Corrosive; irritates skin, eyes, respiratory tract; may cause pulmonary edema and skin burns.
<b>Toilet Bowl Cleaner</b>	Sodium acid sulfate or oxalate or hypochloric acid	Corrosive; burns from skin contact or inhalation; ingestion may be fatal.

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	Chlorinated phenols	Flammable; very toxic; respiratory, circulatory, or cardiac damage.
<b>Window Cleaner</b>	Diethylene glycol	Toxic; causes central nervous system depression and degenerative lesions in liver and kidneys.
	Ammonia	Vapor irritating to eyes, respiratory tract, and skin; possible chronic irritation.
<b>Wood Stain/Varnish</b>	Mineral spirits, gasoline	Highly flammable; associated with skin and lung cancer; irritant to skin, eyes, nose, throat, lungs; entry into lungs may cause fatal pulmonary edema.
	Methyl and ethyl alcohol	Flammable; damage to eyes, skin, central nervous system.
	Benzene	Flammable; carcinogen; accumulates in fat, bone marrow, liver tissues.
	Lead	Damage to digestive, genitourinary, neuro-muscular and central nervous system; anemia and brain damage.
<b>Antifreeze</b>	Ethylene glycol	Very toxic, 3 ounces can be fatal to adult; damage to cardiovascular system, blood, skin, and kidneys.
	Methanol	Moderately toxic; ingestion may cause coma, respiratory damage.
<b>Car Wax, Polish</b>	Petroleum distillates	Associated with and lung cancer; irritant to skin, eyes, nose, lungs; entry into lungs may cause fatal pulmonary edema.

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<b>Motor Oil/Gasoline</b>	Petroleum hydrocarbons (benzene)	Highly flammable; associated with skin and lung cancer; irritant to skin, eyes, nose, throat, lungs; pulmonary edema; benzene is a carcinogen.
	Lead	Damage to digestive, genitourinary, neuromuscular, and central nervous system; anemia and brain damage.

**This table is reproduced as found at:**

[http://www.healthgoods.com/Shopping/Household\\_Products/Household\\_Hazardous\\_Products.htm](http://www.healthgoods.com/Shopping/Household_Products/Household_Hazardous_Products.htm)

#### <sup>E</sup> Sewage Treatment Plants

In the past, the biochemical processes that take place in water bodies were relied upon to neutralize sewage. Aerobic, or oxygen-requiring, bacteria feed on the organic material in sewage, decomposing it. However, this process may use up the available oxygen that is dissolved in water. Frequently, the concentration of organic waste is so great that the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) depletes the water's oxygen supply, killing fish and plants. The BOD measures the amount of oxygen needed (in milligrams per liter or parts per million) by bacteria and other microorganisms to oxidize the organic matter present in a water sample over a period of 5 days. The BOD of drinking water should be less than 1, while raw sewage may run to several hundred.

Sewage treatment is classified as primary, secondary, or tertiary, depending on the degree to which the effluent is purified. All treatment facilities that discharge to waters of the United States must comply with the **secondary treatment** standards. **Primary treatment** is removal of floating and suspended solids. **Secondary treatment** uses biological methods such as digestion. **Tertiary treatment** removes all but a negligible portion of bacterial and organic matter. Primary and secondary treatment together can remove up to 90% of the BOD. After undergoing chlorination to remove its bacterial component, the effluent from secondary sewage treatment is returned to the local surface water. This combination of primary and secondary treatment removes most of the organic matter in sewage and thus lowers the BOD. However, most of the **nitrogen** and **phosphorus** in sewage still remains in the effluent from secondary treatment. These inorganic nutrients can cause eutrophication of surface water receiving the

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effluent causing blooms of algae. To avoid this, a few communities add a third stage of treatment called **tertiary** or advanced waste treatment. During this final process, the nearly purified water flows from the post-secondary sedimentation tanks into a large basin, where it is chlorinated to kill any remaining potential pathogens. This tertiary effluent then undergoes an aeration process to de-chlorinate the water as it flows down a series of steps prior to its final discharge from the sewage treatment plant. Discharge water must be free of odors, suspended solids, and objectionable bacteria. (Coliform bacteria, which inhabit the lower intestines of mammals, while not pathogenic of themselves, are taken as an index of contamination of watercourses.)

## **F HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL**

Keep in mind that what “goes on the ground, goes in the Sound.” What goes in your trash can be harmful too! When you get ready to discard all of those harmful, toxic household substances, don’t just throw them in the trash can or dump them down the drain, check your local hazardous drop off dates so that disposal is done in a proper fashion.

The following hazardous household waste facilities were provided by [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org):

### ***Fairfield County:***

SHELTON, CT 06484

**Phone:** (203) 381-9571

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information.

**Location Notes:** This program offers one day collection events. Please call for a complete list of materials accepted. This program is open to the residents of Darien, Easton, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Shelton, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Used Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

### ***Hartford County:***

HARTFORD, CT 06120

**Phone:** (860) 278-3809

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information.

**Location Notes:** The HHW events usually occur May to October. Please call for a complete list of materials accepted. This program is open to the residents of Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Enfield, Farmington,

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Granby, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Antifreeze, Rechargeable batteries (non-NiCd), Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal, Aerosol Cans, NiCd Batteries, Paint Disposal, Propane Tanks, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury, Asbestos

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

**MANCHESTER**

322 Olcott Street  
MANCHESTER, CT 06040

**Phone:** (860) 278-3809

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current household hazardous waste information.

**Distance:** 15.64 mile(s)

**Location Notes:** This site accepts muriatic acid, chemical paint strippers, no pest strips, chemistry kits, poisons, flea powder, spray and dip, polishes, fungicides, pool chemicals, hair dye and spray, rodent killers, hearing aid batteries, slug baits, oil based stains, kerosene, lead paint, wood preservatives, and lead paint chips (double bag if wet). Please leave all materials in original containers. This program is open to the residents of Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, Stafford, and Vernon.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, NiCd Batteries, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Asbestos.

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

MANCHESTER, CT 06040

**Phone:** (860) 647-3067

**Days/Hours:** Please call for more specific information on household hazardous waste disposal.

**Distance:** 17.5 mile(s)

**Location Notes:** This site is located at Somers School Project on Vision Drive in Somers. This program is open to households from the Towns of Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, Stafford, and Vernon.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Used Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

***Litchfield County:***

LITCHFIELD, CT 06759

**Phone:** (860) 491-9884

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current household hazardous waste collection information.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

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Used Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

***Middlesex County:***

MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

**Phone:** (860) 278-3809

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information.

**Location Notes:** The HHW events usually occur May to October. Please call for a complete list of materials accepted. This program is open to the residents of Cromwell, Durham, East Hampton, Haddam, Middlefield, Middletown, and Portland.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Antifreeze, Rechargeable batteries (non-NiCd), Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal, Aerosol Cans, NiCd Batteries, Paint Disposal, Propane Tanks, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury, Asbestos

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

***New Haven County:***

90 Sargent Drive

NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

**Phone:** (203) 401-2712

**Days/Hours:** This site is open May to October on Saturday mornings from 9am to noon.

**Location Notes:** This site accepts waste from households only. The towns of Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Fairfield, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, North Branford, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, Wallingford, and Woodbridge may use this site.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Used Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

ANSONIA, CT 06401

**Phone:** (860) 278-3809

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information.

**Location Notes:** The HHW events usually occur May to October. Please call for a complete list of items accepted. This program is open to the residents of Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Antifreeze, Rechargeable batteries (non-NiCd), Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal, Aerosol Cans, NiCd Batteries, Paint Disposal, Propane Tanks, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners,

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Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury, Asbestos  
**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

***New London County:***

1000 Hartford Road  
LEBANON, CT 06249

**Phone:** (860) 444-5864

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information.

**Distance:** 7.4 mile(s)

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels

***Tolland County:***

Hancock Road  
WILLINGTON, CT 06279

**Phone:** (860) 684-3163

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information, events usually last from 9am to 2pm.

**Location Notes:** This site is located on Hancock off of Ruby Road. This program accepts drain cleaners, metal polish, dry cleaning fluids, art and craft supplies, oven cleaners, and other chemicals. Please call for a complete list. This site requires batteries be packed in original containers if possible, sealed, labeled, and limited to one hundred pounds. No mixed materials or business wastes are accepted. This program is open to residents from the following towns: Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Mansfield, Tolland, Union, Willington, and Windham.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal, Aerosol Cans, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

Vision Drive  
SOMERS, CT 06071

**Phone:** (860) 647-3067

**Days/Hours:** Please call for more specific information on household hazardous waste disposal.

**Location Notes:** This site is located at Somers School Project in Somers. This program is open to households from the Towns of Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, Stafford, and Vernon.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Used Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Antifreeze, Car Batteries, Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Brake Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline

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and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

**Windham County:**

WINDHAM, CT 06280

**Phone:** (860) 684-3163

**Days/Hours:** Please call for current HHW collection and event information, events usually last from 9am to 2pm.

**Location Notes:** This site is located on Hancock off of Ruby Road in Willington. This program accepts drain cleaners, metal polish, dry cleaning fluids, art and craft supplies, oven cleaners, and other chemicals. Please call for a complete list. This site requires batteries be packed in original containers if possible, sealed, labeled, and limited to one hundred pounds. No mixed materials or business wastes are accepted. This program is open to residents from the following towns: Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Mansfield, Tolland, Union, Willington, and Windham.

**Materials Collected / Services Offered:**

Single-use Batteries, Transmission Fluid, Paint Disposal, Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, Solvents, Degreasers, Adhesives, Gasoline and Unwanted Fuels, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Paint Thinners, Items Containing Mercury

**Web Link:** [http:// dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm)

For more information:

Disposal Generally- <http://www.earth911.org>

Disposal of hazardous wastes- <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/hazwaste.htm>

**<sup>G</sup> NATURAL ALTERNATIVES**

**Did you know that the following household items could replace chemical cleansers?**

Vinegar	Dissolves mineral deposits and soap, removes mildew and wax buildup, can deodorize, will clean brick and stone. Vinegar acts as a mild disinfectant
Water	Mixed with various ingredients can act as an all purpose cleaner
Lemon Juice	Can be mixed with water to clean glass, remove stains from aluminum, copper, and porcelain. Lemon juice can also be used as a mild bleach
Herbs	Mix with water to deodorize
Mineral or Olive oil	Can be used alone or mixed with carnauba wax to create furniture or floor polish

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Salt	Helps remove spots and grease, and acts as a cleaner when mixed with baking soda and water
Steel wool	Considered abrasive, will remove rust and tough food residues
Cornstarch	Mixed with baking soda can act as a carpet deodorizer
Hydrogen Peroxide	Removes blood stains
Milk	Removes ink-stains and paint
Baking Soda	Acts as an air freshener and general cleaner, with vinegar and boiling water it helps open drains, removes mildew with salt, a silver polish when mixed with salt, works as toothpaste
Borax	Can be mixed with water to be a disinfectant and scouring powder
Club Soda	Removes ingredients that cause stains
Worcestershire sauce	Cleans brass

#### <sup>H</sup> LOOK AT PRODUCT LABELS

Check the labels of the products that you are considering for your home. Products that are labelled: “Caution”, “Warning”, “Danger”, or “Poison” are considered dangerous to human health. (These four precautions are listed respectively, from least harm to most harm.)

Product labels are required to list ACTIVE ingredients. On the other hand, manufacturers are not required to list INERT ingredients (those ingredients that play no role in the product’s advertised function), which are now on products labels as “other ingredients.” Many of these “other ingredients,” such as propellants, detergents, and solvents, can also be hazardous to both the user and the environment. EPA allows approximately 1,400 chemicals to be call "inert", on packaging. Of those, 40 are known carcinogens and/or neurotoxins, and 64 are believed to be potentially toxic but even more shockingly, vast majority of cleaner chemicals have *yet* to be tested for safety.

Check the labels of products for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), also known as organic gases and organic chemicals. Organic chemicals have varying damaging health affects and while many of these affects are known and proven cancerous to animals and to humans, others are still unknown and have uncertain health affects. Short term exposure (general use of a cleaning product) can cause

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eye and respiratory irritation, dizziness, headaches and visual problems. Other, longer term side effects can include: cancer, liver, kidney, and central nervous system disorders. (Source: EPA).

VOCs appear in many everyday products. The most familiar place to find these organic gases is in automotive fuels, however what most people do not realize is that VOC's are also commonplace in the average home with studies showing approximately one dozen common organic pollutants existing there. Levels of these pollutants are 2 to 5 times higher inside homes than outside (EPA's Total Exposure Assessment Methodology). VOC's are found in the following common household items: cleansers, disinfectants, air fresheners, dry cleaned clothing, aerosol sprays, wood cleaners and preservatives, paints and fuels.

<sup>1</sup> [MAKE YOUR OWN!](#)

### **DISCLAIMER**

The materials in this site are provided "as is" and without warranties of any kind either express or implied. To the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law, we disclaim all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. We do not warrant that the functions contained in the materials will be uninterrupted or error-free, that defects will be corrected, or that this site or the server that makes it available are free of viruses or other harmful components. We do not warrant or make any representations regarding the use or the results of the use of the materials in this site in terms of their correctness, accuracy, reliability, or otherwise. You (and not us) assume the entire cost of all necessary servicing, repair or correction. Applicable law may not allow the exclusion of implied warranties, so the above exclusion may not apply to you.

We try very hard to make sure that all recipes are 100% accurate but typos and other errors may occur, therefore, you use the recipes and information provided within this site **at your own risk**, we bear no responsibility for the results of possible errors.

When following a recipe, always try it on a small area first to test for colorfastness and material durability. Always wear gloves! We tried to provide you with safer alternatives than traditional products, however, some individuals may suffer from allergies or sensitivities, so please exercise personal care when making or using items listed.

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[Air Freshener](#)  
[Bleach](#)

[Car Wash Concentrate](#)

[Car Wax](#)  
[Drain Cleaner](#)  
[Dry Carpet Cleaner](#)  
[Furniture Polish](#)  
[General Cleaning](#)  
[Insecticides/Pesticides](#)  
[Mildew](#)  
[Oven cleaner](#)  
[Toilet Bowl Cleaner](#)  
[Window/Glass Cleaner](#)

[Click here for links to additional recipes](#)

**Air Freshener**-Mix herbs of choice, such as rosemary and sage, simmer on stove. Use this mixture, to mist with a spray bottle.

**Bleach**- Use hydrogen peroxide-based bleaches. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down to water and oxygen in wastewater. (Source: [EPA](#))

**Car Wash Concentrate**: Cleans and shines.

1-cup natural, chlorine-free, phosphate-free, non-petroleum based liquid dishwashing detergent  
3/4 cup natural, chlorine-free, phosphate-free, non-petroleum based powdered laundry detergent  
3 gallons water

1) Mix in a bottle; 2) To use, combine 1/2 cup of the concentrate with the water. If a stronger solution is desired, slightly reduce the amount of water.

**Car Wax**:

To avoid over drying, wax your car one section at a time.

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½ cup melted ceresin wax  
2 tbsp. melted yellow beeswax  
2 cups turpentine  
1 tbsp. pine oil

- 1) In a double boiler, heat the ceresin wax and beeswax. Stir, and then allow to cool until the mixture starts to harden. Stir in the turpentine and pine oil.
- 2) To use, apply with a rag; polish with a soft cloth.

**Drain Cleaner-** Use one of the following methods:

1. Pour one or two handfuls of baking soda followed by ½ cup white vinegar down the drain pipe and cover tightly for one minute. The chemical reaction between the two substances will create pressure in the drain and dislodge the obstruction. Rinse with hot water.
2. Pour ½ cup salt and ½ cup baking soda followed by lots of hot water.
3. Plunge the sink.
4. Use a drain snake -- also called a sink auger -- to unclog stubborn drains. Drain snakes can be purchased at hardware stores or ordered online, sometimes for less than the cost of a bottle of chemical drain cleaner. More expensive heavy-duty drain snakes can be rented for less than the cost of a chemical drain cleaner. (Source: [EPA](#))

**Dry Carpet Cleaner:**

Brightens rugs and adds a fresh scent.

2 cups baking soda  
½ cup cornstarch  
5 bay leaves, crumbled  
1 tsp ground cloves

- 1) In a covered container, mix all the ingredients
- 2) To use, shake well and sprinkle generously on the carpet.

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3) Leave for several hours. Vacuum thoroughly.

**Furniture Polish** -Use one part white distilled vinegar and three parts olive oil. Add a little natural lemon oil for a shiny polish.

**General Cleaning**-Dilute vinegar or lemon juice in water or mix baking soda with water

**Insecticides/ Pesticides**

- **(source: [http://mama.essortment.com/homemadeinsecti\\_rvxg.htm](http://mama.essortment.com/homemadeinsecti_rvxg.htm)):**
  - Combine one teaspoon of hot pepper or Tabasco sauce, 4 cloves of garlic and a quart of water. Blend well in a blender and strain, with cheesecloth or nylon mesh before placing in your sprayer. This will repel many insects including whiteflies, aphids, spider mites and caterpillars.
  - Mix 1/8-1/4 cup of hydrated lime with one quart of water. This creates an effective spray against many insects, especially spider mites. Add a drop of non-detergent soap to act as a sticking agent and insecticide. Lime can cause serious harm to plants if you use too much, so always spray a test plant first and watch it for a few days, to check for any adverse effects on plants.
  - Take one ounce of tomato leaves and add to one quart of water and blend thoroughly. Strain the resulting liquid and use to repel insects. This works well on white cabbage butterflies too.
  - Take a copious amount (as many as you can collect) of the insect you wish to repel and grind their corpses up into a powder. Mix the resulting powder with one quart of water and, spray as a repellent for the insect that you ground up for the powder.

**Mildew**-Make a paste of vinegar and salt

**Oven cleaner**- Use one of the following methods: (Source: [EPA](#))

1. Mix 1 part vinegar to about 4 parts water. Put into a spray bottle. Spray onto cool oven surface. Scrub the oven clean. Use baking soda or a citrus-based cleaner on stubborn spots.
2. Mix together in a spray bottle 2 Tbsp liquid soap (not detergent), 2 tsp borax, and warm water to fill the bottle. Make sure the salts are completely dissolved to avoid clogging the squirting mechanism. Spray on

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mixture, holding the bottle very close to the oven surface. Leave the solution on for 20 minutes, then scrub with steel wool and a non-chlorine scouring powder.

*Or,*

Use a baking soda, salt, and water paste and a razor blade or spatula for tough spots.

- *Notes:* Avoid aerosol oven cleaners and cleaners containing lye (sodium hydroxide). Avoid chlorinated scouring powders such as Comet® and Ajax®. Don't use abrasive cleaning materials on self-cleaning ovens. For preventative cleaning, use baking soda dissolved in water.

**Toilet Bowl Cleaner-** Pour in 1 cup borax, 1/2 cup white vinegar and leave overnight. Flush to wet the sides of the bowl. Sprinkle the borax around the toilet bowl, then drizzle with vinegar. Leave for several hours before scrubbing with a toilet brush. (Source: [NaturalLand.com](http://NaturalLand.com)) *For stains in toilet bowl-* try a paste of lemon juice and borax. Let sit about 20 min. and scrub with bowl brush.

- *Notes:* Avoid solid toilet bowl deodorizers that contain paradichlorobenzene -- there is evidence that it causes cancer in laboratory animals. Some toilet bowl-cleaning products contain acids (read labels). If acids are mixed with a cleaner containing chlorine, toxic chlorine gas is released.  
(Source: [EPA](http://EPA))

**Window/Glass Cleaner-** Fill a spray bottle with 1 quart of water, mix in 1 tablespoon of white vinegar. This can be stored for later use.

See also [Natural Alternatives](#)

*For additional recipes*

[http://herbalmusings.com/cleanse\\_your\\_home.htm](http://herbalmusings.com/cleanse_your_home.htm)

<http://www.cbemw.org/fact/cleaners.html>

<http://www.exit109.com/~tomerry/Etip3.html>

<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/greenind.htm>

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[http://eartheasy.com/live\\_nontoxic\\_solutions.htm](http://eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm)

<http://es.epa.gov/new/contacts/newsletters/shopping.html#link8>

<sup>J</sup> **BE AN "AWARE" SHOPPER**

**Watch out for products claiming to be "environmentally safe",  
"biodegradable", "ozone friendly" and "recycled"!**

Guidelines explaining when each of these advertising words is used in a deceiving manner were developed by the FTC (The Federal Trade Commission) after consultation with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the OCA (Office of Consumer Affairs).

- For a copy, contact the FTC: Correspondence Branch, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 or call 202-326-2222.
- For a copy of the "Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims," call 202-326-3753
- Some products may be safer than others, however, other factors must be taken into account when purchasing products, such as: "application, storage, and disposal of cleaning products, how the product is diluted, how to maintain proper ventilation in the area where the products are being used, and how to correctly use any cleaning equipment that is being employed." (Steve Ashkin, VP, Rochester Midland Corp., from Indoor Environment Review 4-98)

<sup>K</sup> **FAST FACTS ON HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS**<sup>K</sup>

- The average American home has 3-10 gallons of hazardous materials. (Source: [Children's Health Environmental Coalition](#))
- The average household typically uses and stores more than 60 hazardous products, including household cleaners, automotive products, paints, solvents and pesticides. (Source: [Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce](#))
- In 1993, 1.8 million human poisonings were reported to the poison control centers in the U.S. Ninety-two percent of the incidents took place in the home and 60 percent of the cases involved children under the age of five. (Source: [Children's Health Environmental Coalition](#))

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- A study by the New York Poison Control Center found that 85 percent of product warning labels they studied were inadequate. Some labels list incorrect first-aid information, and others warn against dangers that don't exist. (Source: [Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce](#))
  - EPA studies of human exposure to air pollutants indicate that indoor air levels of many pollutants may be 2-5 times, and occasionally, more than 100 times higher than outdoor levels. [Cleaning products and other household products](#) are among the many culprits. (Source: [EPA](#))
  - Over 150 chemicals found in the average home have been linked to allergies, birth defects, cancer and psychological abnormalities. (Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission, via [www.earthwellness.com](http://www.earthwellness.com))
  - The Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act (FHSLA) (sometimes called the Federal Hazardous Substances Act) requires manufacturers to label active ingredients in household products which are considered "proximate" hazards, but not inert ingredients which have chronic (long-term) effects. (Source: [Ledie Bond at EarthSafe & Wellness Technologies, Inc.](#))
  - "Remember: the signal words [e.g. "Danger," "Caution," etc.] pertain only to acute or immediate hazards. The labels do NOT indicate the effect chemicals will have on chronic or long-term health. Thus, degenerative diseases or those with a long latency period are not addressed by key words. Product labels are not required to inform consumers of the type of hazard associated with the product." (Source: [Yamhil County Solid Waste Division \(Oregon\)](#) )
  - The Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with enforcing the Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act (FHSLA). (Source: [National Archives and Records Administration](#))

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- The Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act (FHSLA) defines "hazardous substance" as "any substance or mixture of substances which (i) is toxic, (ii) is corrosive, (iii) is an irritant, (iv) is a strong sensitizer, (v) is flammable or combustible, or (vi) generates pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means, if such substances or mixture of substances may cause substantial personal injury or substantial illness during or as a proximate result of any customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including reasonably foreseeable ingestion by children."

(Source: [www4.law.cornell.edu](http://www4.law.cornell.edu))

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