

Waste disposal questions? Call **880-1000**.

Household recycling questions? Call **880-1000**.

# Get Creative!

There are many ways that you can reduce the amount and toxicity of waste around the house by using alternative methods or products that are non-toxic. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

HAZARDOUS PRODUCT	ALTERNATIVE
<b>Drain cleaner</b>	Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1/2 cup of vinegar into the drain. Cover the drain until fizzing stops, then flush with boiling water.
<b>Oven cleaner</b>	Clean spills as soon as the oven cools using steel wool and baking soda; for tough stains, add salt (do not use this method in self-cleaning or continuous-cleaning ovens).
<b>Glass cleaner</b>	Mix one tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in one quart of water. Spray on glass and use newspaper to wipe dry.
<b>Toilet bowl cleaner</b>	Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar (this will clean, but not disinfect).
<b>Furniture polish</b>	Mix one teaspoon of lemon juice in one pint of mineral or vegetable oil and wipe furniture.
<b>Silver polish</b>	Boil two to three inches of water in a shallow pan with one teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of baking soda, and a sheet of aluminum foil. Submerge silver for two to three more minutes. Wipe away tarnish. Repeat if necessary. <b>Note:</b> Do not use this method on antique silver knives. The blade will separate from the handle. You may also try nonabrasive toothpaste to polish your silver.
<b>Rug deodorizer</b>	Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary.
<b>Mothballs</b>	Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint or white peppercorns.
<b>Diseased plants</b>	Wipe leaves with mild soap and water; rinse.
<b>Flea and tick control</b>	Put brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food; sprinkle fennel, rue, rosemary or eucalyptus leaves around pet's sleeping area.

## Think Before You Buy:



- **Look for safer alternatives to hazardous products.**
- **Buy only as much of the product as you need to do the job at hand.**
- **Do not entirely rely on the word "non-toxic" if it appears on a product's label.** A product that qualifies as non-toxic can still contain hazardous ingredients. Read the entire label for additional health warnings and use good judgment when considering any product.
- **If you buy hazardous products, make sure they are in childproof packaging.**
- **Avoid aerosol products.** Aerosol cans disperse the product in tiny droplets that can be deeply inhaled into the lungs and quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. Additionally, aerosols can ignite easily and the cans may explode when subjected to high temperature or pressure. Look for plastic spray bottles instead.



**RECYCLE**  
It's Nashville's Nature

[www.nashville.gov/recycle](http://www.nashville.gov/recycle)  
**880-1000**



If you need any assistance or accommodation, please contact Kristen Deitrick, ADA Coordinator, Metro Public Works, 939 Dr. Richard Adams Drive, Nashville, TN 37207; Telephone (615) 862-8962.

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Metro Public Works

## Division of Waste Management

# PLAYING IT SAFE WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE



Questions? Call 880-1000

Instead of disposing of hazardous waste materials,  
**Give Them To Us!**

You can bring up to 15 gallons or 100 pounds of your household hazardous waste to the Recycling/Convenience Center located at Dr. Richard Adams Drive. The center is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Americans generate  
**1.6 million tons**  
of household hazardous  
waste per year.

The use of chemicals has become part of a daily routine in most American homes. Commonly used products such as paint, batteries, cleaners, motor oil and pesticides are typically safe, but when disposed of improperly these items can become hazardous to human health and the environment.

Improper disposal of household wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the trash.

When chemicals are carelessly thrown away, they can cause water, soil and air pollution, which can have adverse effects on the lives of plants, animals, and even humans.

# What Is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste refers to products containing potentially harmful or toxic chemicals, often used for cleaning and maintenance of our homes. These products can be found in almost every room of many homes. Here are some examples and where they might be found in the average home:

