



Alternatives to Common Household Waste Items

Air refresher – Find source of odor and deal with it. Open windows to ventilate. To scent air, use herbal bouquets pure vanilla on a cotton ball, or simmer cinnamon and cloves.

Ants (in house) – Locate entry point and seal with caulk. Remove all sources of food and water. Kill visible ants. Wash countertops, cabinets and floor with equal parts of vinegar and water to deter ant infestation. ALSO, there is a herb called “tansy” that is repulsive to ants. Lay cut bunches by windows or wherever they come in; they won’t.

Brass polish – Use paste made from equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.

Car battery corrosion – Pour baking soda and water or cola over battery posts and scrub with a wire brush.

Chrome polish – Vinegar

Cleaners (general) – Liquid castile soap. Use as directed or dissolve 4 Tbl. baking soda in 1 qt. warm water.

Coffee cup stain removal – Rub with moist salt or baking soda.

Copper cleaner – Use paste made from equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.

Decal removal – Soak in hot water if practical; otherwise, use vinegar or coat it with peanut butter and let it soak overnight.

Dishwashing – Washing dishes by hand with liquid soap or mild detergent is preferable to using strong electric dishwashing detergents.

Drain cleaner – Try plunger first. Then pour ½ cup baking soda down, followed by ½ cup vinegar; wait a few minutes and pour in 2 qts. boiling water. Repeat if needed. If this fails, rent or buy a drain snake.

Fertilizer – Compost and organic fertilizers.

Fleas on pets – Vacuum twice a week with agitator vacuum; dispose of vacuum bags in trash. Wash pet bedding. Use flea comb on pets, drowning fleas in hot soapy water. Restrict pet access to human living areas until infestation is over.

Floor cleaner – 1 cup vinegar plus 2 gallons of water. For unfinished wood floors, add 1 cup linseed oil. To remove wax buildup, scrub in club soda, let soak and wipe clean.

Hand cleaner for paint/grease – Rub hands with baby oil, vegetable oil or margarine, then wash with soap and water.

Insects on plants – Identify insects on plants and select appropriate control; least toxic methods include hand or water spray removal, soapy water spray, barriers and traps.

Laundry bleach – Use borax on all clothes or ½ cup white vinegar in rinse water to brighten dark clothing. Non-chlorinated bleach also works well.

Linoleum floor polish – Skim milk (it doesn’t smell, really!!).

Mildew remover – A non-chlorinated scouring powder cleans mildew stains from grout. Scrub hard.

Moths in clothes – Thoroughly clean any used clothing or furniture before introducing into home. Wash woolens before storing; store in tight container. Vacuum rugs, behind and under furniture. Shake out woolens periodically.

Oven cleaner – As a preventative measure, cover the oven bottom with a sheet of aluminum foil. Clean up spills promptly. To clean, use baking soda, soap and water with a copper scrubber and lots of elbow grease. Or use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or non-caustic oven cleaner.

Paint (oil based) – Latex paint; avoid aerosols.

Porcelain stain removal – Baking soda.

Refrigerator deodorizer – Open box of baking soda.

Roaches – Remove all sources of food and water. Remove hiding places such as old newspapers, garbage bags and other clutter. Caulk or plug cracks and crevices. Last resort is to use boric acid (a poison). This must be kept away from pets and children.

Rug/carpet cleaner – Sprinkle baking soda, then vacuum.

Silver cleaner – Rub gently with baking soda and damp sponge (large objects). For small objects place in hot pot of water on stove with small piece of aluminum foil; add 1 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon salt; boil 2-3 minutes.

Slugs and snails – Remove tall grass and debris from vicinity of garden. Use beer traps (replenish frequently) or hand capture in the evening. Sheet copper is most effective barrier.

Stain removal – Depends on type of spill. Treat as quickly as possible and blot as much liquid as you can with paper towel or cloth (don’t rub). For most stains, try cold water first then hot water with a little detergent.

Stainless steel cleaner – Baking soda.

Toilet bowl cleaner – Baking soda and castile soap.

Tug and tile cleaner – Use vinegar full-strength on sponge, then use baking soda as a scouring powder. Rinse well.

Wine Stain removal – Water or rubbing alcohol. Dry

Window cleaner – ½ cup vinegar in 1 quart warm water for inside windows. For outside windows, use soap and water; rinse well and dry.

Garbage disposal deodorizer – Use lemons or baking soda.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



**St. Clair County
Environmental Services Dept.
Household Hazardous Waste
Facility
6779 Smiths Creek Rd
Smiths Creek, MI 48074**

(810) 985-2443

www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/landfill/



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

(HHW_s) are wastes generated in the home that

are considered to be hazardous and a potential source for serious health risks. HHW_s include waste items that are flammable, toxic, reactive or corrosive.

For alternatives to common household waste items, see the back of this brochure.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
by Appointment only

6779 Smiths Creek Rd.
Smiths Creek, MI

**The facility is open to residents of
St. Clair County**



St. Clair County
Environmental Services
Department

Household Hazardous
Waste Facility

Business waste will **NOT** be accepted

Accepting waste from non-profit
Organizations in St. Clair County

Items that will be accepted include:

- Antifreeze
- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Transmission fluid, brake fluid, gasoline, fuel oil
- Household cleaners
- Oil base paints and paint products (thinners, varnishes, solvents)
- Alkaline and Ni-Cad batteries

Types of Materials NOT accepted:

- Latex paint
- Automotive batteries
- Explosives
- Used motor oil
- Any containers over 5 gallons or over 25 pounds



Before bringing products to the HHW facility:

- Empty containers or containers where the product is dried out may be thrown away.
- Check containers - make sure lids are tight.
- Make sure products are labeled.
- Pack wastes in sturdy containers for transportation, such as a tub or box.
- Wrap leaking or dirty individual containers in a clean plastic bag and pack each item in a container with absorbent material, such as "kitty litter" to soak up leaks.
- Transport the materials in your automobile trunk, rear of your vehicle or truck bed.

What makes a product hazardous?



Flammable/combustible - can easily be set on fire; ignites easily.



Explosive/reactive - can explode through exposure to heat, sudden shock, pressure or incompatible substance.



Corrosive - chemical action can burn and destroy living tissues or other materials when brought in contact.



Toxic - Poisonous or lethal when ingested, touched, inhaled or absorbed through skin - even in small quantities.

If any of the products in your home have these warning words on the front label, your house contains potentially hazardous materials:

- Danger
- Explosive
- Poison
- Flammable
- Caution

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