

How to Have a Hazard-Free Home

Keeping your home hazard free is easy. Know what you're buying. Use and store all products properly. Dispose of hazardous materials safely. Remember, there are hazard-free alternatives to many household chemicals. Follow these helpful hints for a home that is hazard free.



DO

- Read all labels carefully.
- Buy products with the least harmful ingredients.
- Buy only as much as you need.
- Store in a safe place away from children and pets.
- Store products in their original containers.
- Recycle what you can (for example, motor oil and car batteries).
- Donate unused portions to friends or community organizations.
- Use hazardous products in a well-ventilated area (use protective gloves or masks when recommended).
- Dispose of hazardous products properly.

DON'T

- Don't pour chemicals on the ground or down the drain.
- Don't dispose of toxic products with other household trash.
- Don't remove product labels.
- Don't disregard label warnings.
- Don't use more product than required for the job.
- Don't mix different products. They might explode.

Pin up
this guide
somewhere
handy.

Many common products can serve as safe—and effective—substitutes for toxic household chemicals. The following is a sample list of such safe substitutes.

TOXIC PRODUCTS

SAFER SUBSTITUTES

Abrasive cleaners	Baking soda
Air freshener	Better ventilation
	Vinegar in an open dish
	Open box of baking soda
Aerosols	Non-aerosol, pump-type sprays
All-purpose cleaner	1 qt. water + 1 tsp. liquid soap + 1 tsp. borax + splash of lemon or vinegar
Aphid killer	Mix mild bar soap + water and spray
Chlorine bleach	Borax or baking soda to whiten, or non-chlorine dry bleach
Drain opener	Plunger, followed by 1/2 cup baking soda + 1/2 cup vinegar + 2 qts. boiling water
Flea repellent	Gradually add brewers yeast to pet's diet
Furniture polish	1 part lemon juice + 2 parts vegetable oil
Herbicides	Strong hoeing or hand weeding
Mildew stain remover	2 tbsp. vinegar + 1 qt. water
Mothballs	Cedar chips
Oil-Based paints (& paint thinner & solvents)	Latex and water-based paints
Oven cleaner	Sprinkle salt or baking soda on spill while warm, scrape when cool, or 2 tbsp. liquid soap + 2 tsp. borax + warm water
Snail bait	Beer trap
Toilet bowl cleaners	Paste of borax + lemon juice, or small amount non-chlorine bleach, let stand 30 minutes then scrub
Window cleaners	2 tbsp. vinegar + 1 qt. warm water