



**BARRINGTON
AREA LIBRARY**

Green Cleaning

A collaboration of Go Green Barrington & BAlibrary

With thanks to Kate Carney, formerly of Cook County Forest Preserve

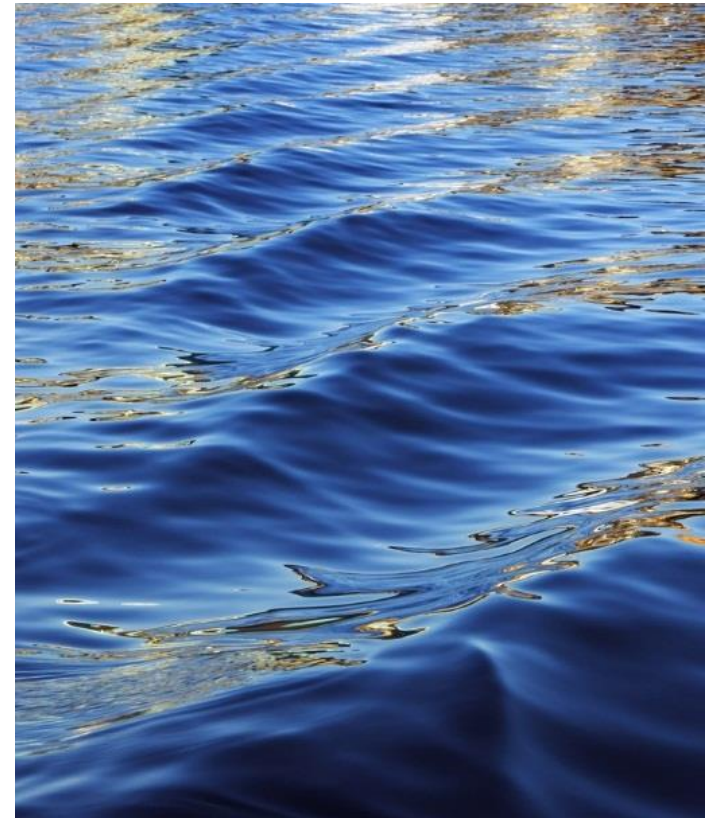


Reduce your Household Hazardous Waste with Green Cleaning:

Create non-toxic cleaners and save money.

Household cleaners are one of the most common types of household hazardous waste. Many are toxic to both people and the environment.

We'll discuss ways to make your own non-toxic alternatives to reduce household hazardous waste in your home.



Go Green Barrington

- Mission: To foster healthy, resilient and thriving communities by improving the quality of life, protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability and environmental justice for all Cook County residents and stakeholders.
- We do this through a variety of methods including providing information about **household hazardous waste** and **green cleaning**.

What is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

Household hazardous waste consists of products that may be corrosive, toxic or at risk of explosion or fire if not disposed of properly.

Potentially hazardous materials include:

- Acids
- Antifreeze
- Fertilizers
- Fire extinguishers
- Kerosene
- Oil-based paint
- Gasoline
- Motor oil
- Fungicides
- Paint stripper
- Varnish
- Household cleaners
- Insect repellent



HHW cannot go to the landfill

Household hazardous waste cannot be sent to the landfill because it can leak and cause harm to the environment. Many types of household hazardous waste also present a high risk of fire or explosion in the landfill.

How to properly dispose of household hazardous waste

In Illinois, your county waste agency is responsible for HHW collection. Each organization may handle it slightly differently. Find information on their websites:

- Lake County—<https://www.swalco.org/165/Household-Chemical-Waste-HCW>
- Northern Cook County—<https://swancc.org/>
- McHenry County—<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/health-department/environmental-health/solid-waste-program> (2024 dates to come)
- Kane County—<https://www.kanecountyil.gov/Recycling/Pages/hhw.aspx>

There are also four permanent sites in Illinois.

- Naperville HCW Facility—<http://www.naperville.il.us/services/garbage-and-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-facility/>
- Chicago: Goose Island Facility—
https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/environmental_health/svcs/household-chemicals---computer-recycling-facility-overview.html
- Rockford: Rock River Reclamation District—<https://www.rockfordil.gov/492/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal>
- Madison County: Wood River, IL—<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=11890239>

What to do about household hazardous waste

Reduce household hazardous waste

- The best way to minimize harm from household hazardous waste is to reduce its use.
- Try using less of a hazardous product or switching to a less harmful alternative.

Get more information

- Earth 911 can help locate disposal locations and accepted materials
 - <https://earth911.com/>

Green Certifications

- Products with qualities that make them less hazardous and more environmentally friendly are often labeled with a green certification.
 - ecolabelindex.com
- EPA's Safer Choice is a great resource for suggestions for safer product alternatives: epa.gov/saferchoice

What to do with household hazardous waste

Reduce household hazardous waste

- Buy one product that will accomplish many tasks, instead of a separate cleaner for every chore.
- Choose the least hazardous products available. Do this by reading labels, looking for warning words, and checking the ingredients. For instance, products labeled:
 - “Caution” are less hazardous than
 - “Warning” are less hazardous than
 - “Danger” choose these products only as a last resort to select the least hazardous product.

Chemicals are a problem:

An average household contains about 62 toxic chemicals

The worst offenders include:

- ◆ Phthalates (tha-lates)
 - ◆ Found in fragranced products like air fresheners and dish soaps
- ◆ Triclosan
 - ◆ Found in dishwashing detergents and antibacterial soaps
- ◆ Quarternary Ammonium Compounds, or QUATS
 - ◆ Found in fabric softeners and antibacterial household cleaners
- ◆ 2-Butoxyethanol
 - ◆ Found in window and multipurpose cleaners
- ◆ Ammonia
 - ◆ Found in jewelry polish, sink cleaners and glass cleaners
- ◆ Chlorine
 - ◆ Found in scouring powder, toilet cleaner and laundry whiteners
- ◆ Sodium Hydroxide
 - ◆ Found in oven cleaners and drain openers

The possible side effects:

- ◆ Carcinogens
- ◆ Endocrine disruptors
- ◆ Antibiotic resistance
- ◆ Liver and kidney damage
- ◆ Lung issues
- ◆ Severe burns
- ◆ Environmental impacts including toxic to algae

Reduce toxic chemicals and household hazardous waste at home with green cleaning replacements

Simple ingredients and tools for a variety of cleaners

- Borax
- Castile Soap
- Water
- White Vinegar
- Baking Soda
- Salt
- Essential Oils
- Scrub brush
- Steam mop*

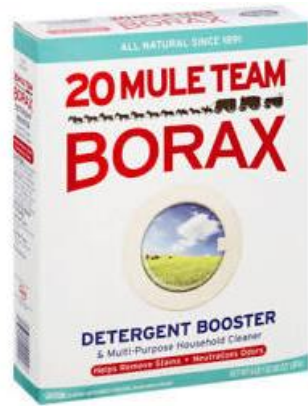
*Sam's favorite new thing—use with distilled water



Where to buy?

- Drugstores
- Grocery stores
- Target and Walmart
- Home improvement stores

Use this... not that! - Scouring Powder



How to make scouring powder

- 2 parts borax, 1 part baking soda and 1 part salt
- combine and use on hard surfaces, add small amount of water to make a paste for tough stains



Use this... not that! - Scouring Soft Scrub



How to make scouring scrub

- 1 cup baking soda and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Castile soap
- combine and use on sinks, tubs, tiles, grout, counters, pots, scuffs and other marks on walls



Use this... not that! – Glass Cleaner



How to make glass cleaner

- equal parts vinegar and water
- combine in spray bottle and wipe with newspaper to reduce streaks



Use this... not that! – All Purpose Cleaner

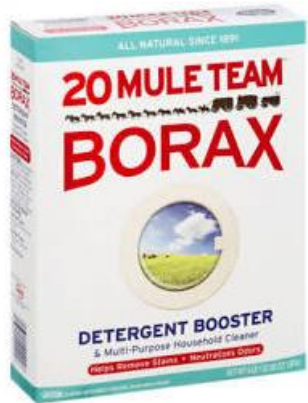


How to make all purpose cleaner

- 3 cups of water, 1/2 cup white vinegar, 2 tsp baking soda, 10 drops of essential oil (optional)
- add vinegar to bottle, then water, next essential oils (if using) and finally baking soda. mix gently to avoid fizzy overflow. spray on surfaces and wipe with clean cloth



Use this... not that! – Toilet Bowl Cleaner



How to make toilet bowl cleaner

- 1/4 cup borax, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 cup vinegar
- add all ingredients to toilet bowl and gently mix with toilet brush. let sit for at least 30 minutes before scrubbing.



Use this... not that! – Floor Cleaner

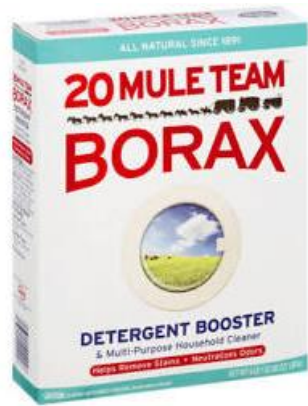


How to make floor cleaner

- 1 cup water, 1/2 cup unscented Castile soap, 25 drops pine essential oil, and 15 drops cypress essential oil in reusable bottle
- add 1 gallon of hot water to mop bucket and 2 Tbsp floor cleaner then mix well
- mop floor or wash floor by hand- this one floor cleaner works well for all types of floors (hardwood, laminate, tile, and vinyl)



Use this... not that! – Dishwasher Detergent



How to make dishwasher detergent

- 1 Tbsp Borax, 1 Tbsp baking soda
- add to detergent compartment and run as usual
- Or make a larger batch, mix 1 part Borax and 1 part baking soda in airtight container and use 2 Tbsp in detergent compartment



Use this... not that! – Wood Polish



How to make wood polish

- 2 parts vinegar, 2 parts olive oil, 1 part lemon juice
- Combine ingredients and lightly dip corner of a clean microfiber cloth into polish. Rub mixture into wood, going with the grain, repeat as necessary. Use a second clean cloth to clean up excess mixture not absorbed into wood.
- *Only make as much as expected to use, extra mixture can go rancid before use.



Use this... not that! – Weed Killer



How to make natural weed killer

- 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup salt, 1 Tbsp liquid dish soap
- Combine ingredients in a spray bottle and treat weeds at the sunniest time of the day for best results.



Use this... not that! – Jewelry Cleaner



How to make jewelry cleaner

- ½ cup white vinegar, 2 Tbsp baking soda
- Soak pure silver bracelets, rings and other jewelry in mixture.
- Then rinse them under cold water and dry thoroughly with a soft cloth.



Use this... not that! – Oven Cleaner and Stove Degreaser



How to make oven cleaner and stove degreaser

- 2 Tbsp baking soda, 1 ½ Tbsp lemon juice, 2 ½ Tbsp vinegar, a drop of liquid dish soap, add salt if you need more scouring power.
- Use to clean the inside and outside of the oven including the glass (do not add salt if using on glass).
- Mix the baking soda and dish soap, then add the lemon juice and last slowly add the vinegar to the mixture until it is a paste.
- Spread the paste around the areas you want to clean and leave for several hours or over night if possible.
- Use a clean, damp cloth to remove the mixture and the dirt. You may need to repeat the process if you have stubborn baked on stains.



Extra clean your cutting boards



How to remove stains and odors from wood and plastic cutting boards

- Salt and lemon cut in half crosswise.
- Sprinkle surface of cutting board with salt, use cut end of lemon to scour away stains and odors.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!



METAL
Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



PAPER
Cardboard (flattened),
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

Clean & Empty
Replace lids & caps



GLASS
Containers: Bottles & Jars Only



PLASTIC
Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,
and Jars Only



CARTONS
May be acceptable in some
programs, check with
local authority.

NO!



No Plastic Bags
No Product Wrap
(return clean to retailer)



No Big Items (Electronics, Wood,
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam –
check with local authority for other options)

**Put material in loose
- Not in Bags**



No Tanglers (Hangers, Hoses,
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



No Clothing
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries or Needles**



No Shredded Paper
(check with local authority
for other recycling options)

- Important to know:
 - Gloves and masks aren't recyclable, do not place them in your recycling bin
- For more information on avoiding "wish recycling" i.e., I wish this was recyclable, see a video of our previous collaboration, Reducing Waste & Recycling Right, accessible from either Go Green Barrington or BALibrary's website.

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For greater detail on specific items or programmatic variations, reach out to your local authority.

To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>, or contact the Department of Environment and Sustainability at 312-603-8200



Prescriptions and Sharps Waste: What do we do with it?

- Find a collection site for prescription medication:
 - SafeNeedleDisposal.org
- Please DO NOT flush prescription drugs!
- Dispose sharps:
 - At your doctor's office or pharmacy if accepted
 - Visit SafeNeedleDisposal.org to find a location
 - Or if you cannot access a site fill a hard plastic container and dispose of in trash

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS & SHARPS DISPOSAL

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

! Do not flush prescription drugs! !
Improperly disposed medications impact aquatic ecosystems and may end up in our drinking sources.

Cook County Sheriff operates the **Prescription Drug Take Back Program** as a **free service** for Cook County residents.*

Many collection sites are at local police departments. Find a site near you at <http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/consumer-residents/>

ACCEPTED: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medications in any pill dosage form• Legally held controlled drugs and narcotics (Schedules II, III, IV and V) except for items listed below.	NOT ACCEPTED: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liquids• Illicit drugs (Schedule I controlled substances) such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin & methamphetamine• Herbal remedies• Vitamins• Supplements• Cosmetics & other personal care products• Compressed cylinders• Aerosols	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inhalers• Pet pesticide products• Iodine-containing medications• Needles, syringes, lancets & injection pens• Medical waste• Chemo/cytotoxic drugs• Contaminated materials such as gloves, tubing, or IV bags• Hazardous materials
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------


*Program is not available for use by retail businesses or companies that handle prescription drugs.

SHARPS DISPOSAL

sharps: medical devices used to puncture or cut skin, such as needles or syringes

! Sharps should never be put in the curbside recycling bin or placed loosely in the trash. !

Find out if your doctor or pharmacy has a take back program. Visit safeneedledisposal.org and use the locator tool for disposal sites.
If you cannot access a site, fill a hard-plastic container with your sharps and throw it in the trash.



When the container is 3/4 full, put the lid on, seal it with duct tape, and label. DO NOT RECYCLE.

Source: SafeNeedleDisposal.org

WASTEANDRECYCLING@COOKCOUNTYIL.GOV @COOKENVIRO

Something to think about: washing your car

- Just like using a dishwasher vs. handwashing your dishes, commercial car washes use less water than cleaning your car at home.
- When you wash at home in the driveway, it drains into the storm sewer. In this area that means also draining into shallow aquifers/our wells.
- Commercial car washes are expected to have a separate system for waste water.
- For a list of best environmental options, see <https://www.treehugger.com/eco-friendly-car-wash-4863509>



Thanks for coming. Questions?

For more information on how to reduce and dispose of household hazardous waste, check out these helpful resources.

Earth911:

earth911.com

[SWANCC](#)

[SWALCO](#)

EPA's Safer Choice:

epa.gov/saferchoice

[Go Green Barrington](#)

Green Certifications:

ecolabelindex.com

Recipe we'll make today:

Ingredients:

- Generally [TODAY]
- 1/4 cup vinegar [1/8 C or 1 ounce]
- 12-20 drops essential oil [5-6 drops]
- 1 tsp castile or phosphorous-free dish soap or washing soda [1/2 tsp washing soda]
- 2 cups boiled or distilled water [1 C]

Steps

- Fill cleaning spray bottle with water first
- Add all other ingredients. Shake well.
- For variations on this recipe, see slides above or <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/water/quality/clean-green-homemade-cleaners.aspx>