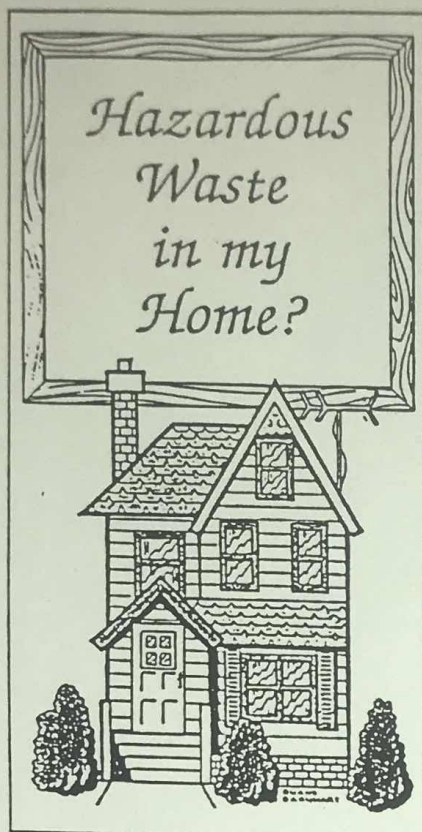


The Household Hazardous Waste Challenge



Hazardous waste is waste which is toxic, corrosive, flammable, or can explode or react when mixed with other substances. Many commonly used household products such as motor oil, household cleaners, paints, and lawn and garden chemicals are potentially hazardous if used, stored or disposed of improperly. Each American household produces more than one pound of hazardous waste per year.

Most household garbage, both hazardous and non-

hazardous, ends up in local dumps and landfills. Such garbage can take many years to decompose or break down. Because many landfills leak, hazardous substances may eventually contaminate the groundwater.

YOU can make a difference! Buy only enough of the product for the job at hand, give leftovers to neighbors, businesses or organizations, and recycle if

possible (i.e. some gas stations recycle used motor oil). The most effective solution, however, is to use more environmentally sound alternatives.

Test your knowledge of safer alternatives by matching the commercial household product in the left column with the safer alternative on the right. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office for more information.

Matching Game

Product	Safer Alternative
A. Moth balls	1. A paste of baking soda and water
B. Bathtub, sink & toilet bowl cleaner	2. One tablespoon vinegar and one quart water
C. Upholstery cleaner	3. A dish of equal parts baking soda or borax and powdered sugar
D. Furniture polish	4. One cup white vinegar and two gallons of water
E. Ant control	5. Cedar chips and newspapers
F. Linoleum floor cleaner	6. A cloth moistened with club soda
G. Roach spray	7. Red chili pepper, paprika, and/or dried peppermint
H. Window and glass cleaner	8. Three parts olive oil and one part vinegar

Answers to Household Waste Matching Game	
A - 5.	Cedar chips and newspapers placed together in closets serve the same purpose as moth balls.
B - 1.	Use a paste of baking soda and water (and elbow grease!) as an alternative to commercial cleaners.
C - 6.	To remove stains from upholstery, use a cloth dabbed with club soda.
D - 8.	To polish furniture, use a soft cloth moistened with a mixture of three parts olive oil and one part vinegar.
E - 7.	To control ants, sprinkle red chili pepper, paprika, and/or dried peppermint in cupboards and where ants enter the house.
F - 4.	Combine one cup of vinegar with two gallons of water to clean linoleum floors.
G - 3.	Set out a dish of equal parts baking soda or borax and powdered sugar to help eliminate roaches.
H - 2.	A mixture of one tablespoon vinegar and one quart water is effective as a glass cleaner. Wipe the glass dry with newspaper.

