

WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Many household products contain hazardous chemicals that can, if not properly disposed of, pollute water, harm wildlife and threaten drinking water and human health. Fragrances and dyes are often the most problematic ingredients and can cause skin and respiratory irritation. These ingredients don't have to be fully disclosed on packaging ingredient lists.

The Master Composter Recyclers help our community reduce the amount of household hazardous waste we produce by using alternative "green cleaners". Using these recipes can improve indoor air quality, reduce waste, and save money!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Most "green cleaner" recipes use various combinations of baking soda, washing soda (a natural detergent booster), borax, white vinegar, vegetable-based liquid soap, hydrogen peroxide, isopropyl ("rubbing") alcohol, cornstarch, olive oil, citric acid (found with canning supplies), and essential oils. While many of these ingredients have anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties, a solution of bleach diluted with water is recommended for sanitization. Most grocery stores carry these ingredients. Some of the less-common ingredients can be found at health-food stores.

MAKING YOUR OWN

These recipes are easy to make, and The Master Composter Recyclers host several Green Cleaning workshops each year. Go to ClarkCountyComposts.org to learn more about upcoming classes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find disposal options for hundreds of items, including household hazardous waste, call 564.397.7352 or visit www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org.

Learn more about upcoming Master Composter Recycler workshops and access additional resources about Green Cleaning at www.ClarkCountyComposts.org.

Clark County Green Neighbors and Master Composter Recycler programs are coordinated by Clark County Public Health.

Solid Waste Planning and Programs are a cooperative effort of Battle Ground, Camas, Clark County, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt.

For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Office
Voice: 360.397.2322/ Relay 711 or 800.833.6388
Fax: 360.397.6165
Email: ADA@clark.wa.gov

For a safer home and
a healthier environment

GREEN CLEANING

Learn to make and use safe, environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional cleaning products that may contain hazardous chemicals.



Clark County
Master Composter Recyclers
www.ClarkCountyComposts.org



RECIPES



Toilets

Hydrogen peroxide in spray bottle
Baking soda
1 cup white vinegar

Spray the inside of the bowl with hydrogen peroxide. Sprinkle baking soda into the bowl. Let sit. Spray hydrogen peroxide on the seat and outside of the toilet and wipe clean. Add one cup of vinegar to the bowl. Scrub with a toilet brush. Flush. Rinse brush and spray with hydrogen peroxide. Let brush dry completely before storing.

Citrus Automatic Dishwasher Powder

2 cups washing soda
2 cups borax
6 Tbsp citric acid powder
Grapefruit essential oil, 25 drops (optional)

Combine and store in an air-tight container. Use 2 Tbsp per load of dishes. It is recommended to use with a pre-rinse of 2 Tbsp vinegar.

Safer Scrubber

1/2 cup water
1 2/3 cup baking soda
1/2 cup liquid vegetable-based soap
2 Tbsp white vinegar
Essential oil (optional, any scent)

In an airtight, screw-top container, add water and vinegar. Add soap and stir. Stir in baking soda until a paste is formed. Use for scrubbing tubs, sinks, and toilets.

Reusable Dryer Sheets

Cotton fabric scraps (old shirts, towels)
1/2 cup white vinegar
Essential oil (optional, any scent)

Drying your laundry on a line outdoors is a great way to reduce energy use, brighten clothes and leave them smelling fresh. If you need to use your drying machine, use these reusable, green dryer sheets. Cut fabric into 6" squares. Mix vinegar and essential oil in a bowl. Place fabric squares in your storage container. Add essential oil mixture to the container. Close lid and turn container upside down, allowing the mixture to moisten all squares. Toss one or two squares into the dryer with each load of laundry. Return squares to container, replenishing mixture as needed to keep the fabric moist.

All-Purpose Cleaner

3 cups hot water
1 tsp washing soda
2 Tbsp white vinegar
2 Tbsp liquid vegetable-based soap
Essential oil (optional, any scent)

Mix everything but the soap together in a spray bottle and shake. Add soap and mix gently. Spray and wipe clean.

Window and Glass Cleaner

2 cups warm water
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup isopropyl ("rubbing") alcohol
1 Tbsp corn starch (optional)
1/2 tsp liquid vegetable-based soap (optional)

Mix ingredients in a spray bottle. Apply to surface and remove with a cloth or squeegee.

Laundry Detergent

1/2 cup liquid vegetable-based soap
3/4 cup washing soda
1/4 cup table salt
5 cups hot water

Add 3 cups of hot water to a bowl. Add soap to hot water and mix. In a separate container mix together salt, washing soda and 2 cups hot water. Slowly add soap/water mixture into salt and soda mixture. Mix slowly to avoid causing soap to gel. Pour into storage container with a lid. For front load machines use 1/2 cup detergent per load; for top-load machines use 3/4 cup per load.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Disinfecting: most green cleaners work by preventing bacteria growth. However, in some instances, such as when someone in your house has a cold or flu or after surfaces come in contact with raw meat, first wash the surface with soap and water. Mix 1 teaspoon bleach per cup of water and wipe onto surface; allow it to air-dry. Or, follow the directions on the bleach product's package.

Other green cleaning techniques:

- Polish wood using black tea or olive oil
- Rub laundry stains with bar soap, then saturate with hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol, or soak with 1/4 cup of borax mixed with cold water
- When you need more scrubbing power, add coarse salt to your cleaning solution

DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Unwanted household chemicals, pesticides, automotive fluids, poisons, and paint should never be thrown in your garbage or recycling carts or poured down the drain. Take household hazardous waste to any of three Clark County transfer stations for disposal. Go to ClarkGreenNeighbors.org for additional information about storage and disposal of household hazardous waste.