

## 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.

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, super washing soda (a natural detergent booster), borax, cleaning vinegar (a more concentrated type of 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](http://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](http://www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org).

Learn more about upcoming Master Composter Recycler workshops and access additional resources about Green Cleaning at [www.ClarkCountyComposts.org](http://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 with support from Washington Department of Ecology’s Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance program.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.ClarkCountyComposts.org)



# RECIPES

## All-Purpose Cleaner

3 cups hot water  
1 tsp super washing soda  
2 Tbsp cleaning 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 cleaning 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.

## Safer Scrubber

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

In an airtight, screw-top container, add water and 2/3 cup of baking soda. Add soap, stir. Add vinegar. Stir in remaining baking soda until a paste is formed. Use for scrubbing tubs, sinks, and toilets.



## Toilet Fizzies

1 1/4 cup borax  
1/2 cup citric acid  
1 1/2 Tbsp liquid vegetable-based soap  
Essential oil (optional, any scent)

Whisk dry ingredients together. Slowly add the soap and essential oil; mix. Shape 1-2 Tbsp portions of the mixture into molds or balls. Let dry overnight; store in an airtight container. To use, let dissolve in toilet, sinks, or tubs.

## Wool Dryer Balls

Skein of wool  
Hosiery or nylon stocking  
Dish soap

Roll the skeins of wool into balls, about the size of a baseball. Place the balls into the stockings and tie the stockings tightly. Wash the balls in a tsp of dish soap in the washing machine on hot, with a load of towels. Dry in the dryer on the hot setting. Remove the balls from the stockings. Use in place of dryer sheets for all laundry.

## Automatic Dishwasher Detergent

1 cup citric acid  
1/2 cup super washing soda

Mix together in an air-tight container. For use, place 1 Tbsp of the mixture into the dishwasher's detergent dispenser and 1 Tbsp in the main compartment of the dishwasher.

## Laundry Detergent

2 1/2 gallons water  
1 bar of soap, any kind  
1 cup super washing soda  
1/2 cup borax

Fill saucepan with 4 cups water. Grate the soap and add to pan. Stir continually over medium-low heat until the soap dissolves and is melted. Fill a 5-gallon bucket halfway with hot water. Add melted soap, washing soda, and borax. Stir, cover, and let sit overnight. For top-load machines, add 5/8 cup tap water to 5/8 cup of your detergent mixture (to dilute this concentrated detergent). For front load machines, use 1/4 cup each of water and detergent.

## 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, follow these steps:

1. Wash surface with soap and water
2. Mix 1 tsp bleach with one gallon distilled water
3. Wipe solution on surface, allow to air dry

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 [www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org](http://www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org) for additional information about storage and disposal of household hazardous waste.