

# Protect Your Family and Our Water Resources From Household Chemicals

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District



A little pollution here. A little pollution there. An old oil can tossed aside. Solvents rinsed down the drain. A dead car battery set outside the shed. Individually, it may not sound like much. But combined with all the other items improperly thrown away every day, these discarded chemicals and other hazardous waste add up to one of the biggest causes of water pollution in Florida.

With a little knowledge and a little planning, you can become part of the solution. Let's start by clarifying what are "hazardous household products."

Typically these are chemicals found in products labeled combustible, corrosive, flammable, ignitable or toxic. They are usually common products that are used in the home daily. Oftentimes, people do not realize that these everyday staples may be hazardous to humans, fish, animals or plants if spilled or not disposed of properly.

Learning about these products and how to handle and dispose of them properly will help to ensure your health and, at the same time, protect Florida's limited water resources.

## Here's How to Work with Hazardous Household Products:

- Reduce your dependence on these potentially hazardous substances by using environmentally friendly substitutes.
- Always read and follow use and disposal instructions for all chemical products.
- Buy only what you need. Use what you buy. If you have leftovers, give them to someone who can use them.
- Dispose of unused hazardous household waste properly.

Your community has a collection and waste management program that offers a safe and

free way to dispose of or recycle "household hazardous waste." Listed within this brochure are the county collection centers within the 16-county area of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Each center has a free drop-off day at least once a year and, in many counties, this option is available several times a year. This service is for county residents only and does not apply to the disposal of waste generated by businesses. There are programs for businesses, but the rules vary from county to county. Contact your local waste management facility to find out information on collection dates and times.

It is illegal to dump toxic chemicals or waste into storm drains or anywhere else that may expose waste in the environment. To report illegal dumping, call your local storm water or environmental management department or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Waste Management Division.

For information on how to dispose of your hazardous household chemicals, contact the following:

**Charlotte County**  
**Hazardous Waste Inspector**  
**Charlotte County Environmental Services**  
**Department**  
27221 Beech Craft Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982  
(941) 639-1802 • fax (941) 639-0987

**Citrus County**  
**Hazardous Waste Collection Center**  
230 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR44)  
Lecanto, FL 34460  
(352) 746-5000 • fax (352) 527-5374

**Desoto County**  
**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Department of Environmental Services**  
3268 S. W. Dishong Ave. • Arcadia, FL 34266  
(863) 993-4826 • fax (863) 993-2068

#### Hardee County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Hardee County Solid Waste**

685 Airport Road • Wauchula, FL 33873  
(863) 773-5089 • fax (863) 773-3907

#### Hernando County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Hernando County Waste Management Division**

14450 Landfill Road • Brooksville, FL 34614  
(352) 754-4112, ext. 112 • fax (352) 754-4118

#### Highlands County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Highlands County Solid Waste Department**

6000 Skipper Road • Sebring, FL 33870  
(863) 655-6477 • fax (863) 655-6480

#### Hillsborough County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Hillsborough County Waste Management**

601 East Kennedy Blvd., 24th Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 276-2936 • fax (813) 276-2960

#### Hillsborough County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Temple Terrace Superintendent of Sanitation**

11210 North 53rd St.  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617  
(813) 989-7170 • fax (813) 989-7066

#### Lake County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Lake County Solid Waste Management**

13130 Astatula Landfill Road • Tavares, FL 32778  
(352) 343-3776, ext. 242 • fax (352) 742-3184

#### Levy County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Levy County Solid Waste**

660 N. Hathaway Dr.  
Bronson, FL 32621  
(352) 486-5127 • fax (352) 486-5165

#### Manatee County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Manatee County Solid Waste**

3333 Lena Road • Bradenton, FL 34202  
(941) 795-3423 • fax (941) 741-3396

#### Marion County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center**

5601 S.E. 66th St. • Ocala, FL 34480  
(352) 245-6530 • fax (352) 245-6530

#### Pasco County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Pasco County Government Utilities**

7530 Little Road, Suite 204  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 847-8041 • fax (727) 847-8064

#### Pinellas County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Pinellas County Solid Waste Operations**

3095 114th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
(727) 464-7565 • fax (727) 464-7713

#### Polk County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Polk County Pollution Control & Recycling**

10 Environmental Loop  
Winter Haven, FL 33880  
(863) 284-4319 • fax (863) 284-4321

#### Sarasota County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Sarasota County Hazardous Waste Management**

8350 Bee Ridge Road • Sarasota, FL 34241  
(941) 316-1301 ext. 202 • fax (941) 316-1300

#### Sumter County

**Hazardous Waste Project Manager**  
**Sumter County Public Works**

319 East Anderson Ave. • Bushnell, FL 33513  
(352) 793-0240 • fax (352) 793-0247

**To report illegal disposal of hazardous chemicals call:**



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

(813) 744-6100 (Tampa)  
(941) 332-6975 (Ft. Myers)  
(407) 894-7555 (Orlando)

For information on local oil recycling sites, call 1-800-741-4337.

For information on local collection sites for biomedical waste items, call your local county health department or environmental department.



The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the ADA should contact the Communications and Community Affairs Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4757; TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (Florida only).



# Protect Your Family and Our Water Resources From Household Chemicals

Looking for alternatives to hazardous household chemicals?

You can mix your own. As with commercial preparations, use your homemade cleaners with care and be patient. Many may not work as quickly as commercial products. The benefit to you is easier disposal of leftovers and containers, combined with a healthier environment for you and your family.

- **Aerosols:** Use pump-spray or other nonaerosol versions of cleaning and grooming products.
- **Air freshener:** Open a window or use an exhaust fan — or both. Sprinkle baking soda in odor producing areas or set vinegar out in an open dish. Place an open box of baking soda in the refrigerator to absorb food odors.
- **Ceramic tile cleaner:** Measure 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar and 1 cup of ammonia into a bucket. Add a gallon of warm water and stir until baking soda dissolves.
- **Disinfectant and germicides:** Wash items with soap and water or wash with borax or sodium carbonate (washing soda) in water.
- **Drain cleaner:** Prevent clogging by covering drains with screen to keep out grease, food scraps, and hair. To loosen blockage, mix 1 cup each of baking soda, salt and white vinegar and pour down the drain. Wait 15 minutes. Flush drain thoroughly with boiling water. Use rubber plunger or plumber's snake if drain is seriously clogged.
- **Floor wax and strippers:** To polish linoleum and vinyl floors without commercial wax, mix 1 part thick boiled starch with 1 part soap suds. Rub the mixture on the floor and polish dry with a clean, soft cloth. To remove old wax, pour a small amount of club soda on a section of floor. Scrub well. Let soak for a few minutes, then wipe clean.
- **Furniture polish:** Use olive oil, 100 percent lemon oil, beeswax, or beeswax and olive oil. You also can mix 2 teaspoons lemon oil and 1 pint mineral oil in a spray bottle.



- **Glass cleaner:** Measure 3 tablespoons ammonia, 1 tablespoon vinegar, and 3/4 cup water into a clean spray bottle. May also use a solution of 2 tablespoons of vinegar in a quart of water.
- **Mothballs:** Place cedar chips or sprigs of dried tansy around clothes or store clothes in a cedar chest.
- **Oven cleaner:** After oven cools, wipe away grease and spills. Clean charred spills with a nonmetallic bristle brush. To remove baked-on grease and spills, scrub with a baking soda, salt and water paste. Or sprinkle with dry baking soda, then scrub with a damp cloth after 5 minutes. (Don't let baking soda touch wires or heating elements.) Scour racks and burner inserts with steel wool.
- **Silver cleaner:** Pour water into aluminum and enameled pan with aluminum foil covering the bottom. Fill to depth of 2 to 3 inches. Add 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt and heat until water boils. Add tarnished silver and boil 3 minutes. Remove silver, wash in soapy water, and polish dry. (Not for use on silver jewelry or flatware with hollow handles.)
- **Spot remover:** For butter, coffee, gravy or chocolate, sponge up or scrape off as much as possible, immediately. Dab with a cloth dampened with a solution of 1 teaspoon white vinegar and 1 quart cold water. For stains that have set, try a dab of full-strength white vinegar, or put paper towels underneath and apply a solution of equal parts ammonia and water.

- **Toilet bowl cleaner:** Pour 1/2 cup liquid chlorine bleach into toilet bowl. Let stand for at least 30 minutes, then scrub with a long handled brush and flush.

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

### Hazardous Household Products

(See reverse for information about proper disposal of these products.)

- **Automotive products:** Motor oil, axle grease, battery acid, brake fluid, antifreeze, gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, degreasers, etc.
- **Fertilizers and pesticides:** Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, no-pest strips, flea collars, pet shampoo, etc.
- **Household cleaners:** Spot removers, furniture polishes, deodorizers, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, disinfectants, moth repellants, ammonia, etc.
- **Maintenance supplies:** Paint, varnish, lacquer, turpentine, wood stains, wood preservatives, asphalt, asbestos, roofing tar, swimming pool chemicals, etc.

Additional information about protecting our water resources is available from:

**Southwest Florida Water Management District**  
at 1-800-423-1476 or [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us)

**Tampa Bay Estuary Program**  
at (727) 893-2765 or [www.tbep.org](http://www.tbep.org)

