Indoor Chemical Hazards Project
King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Washington

Local Governments for Health and the Environment:
King County, City of Seattle, Sound Cities Association

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Why are we concerned about cleaning chemicals?

• Many cleaning products available.

• On the average, 1 out of every 3 cleaners at the store is label with “danger” or “poison”.

• Knowing about chemical hazards and safer alternatives can help you clean more safely and effectively.
Hazardous cleaning chemicals and you

Through skin – anemia, low birth weights, reduced fertility. Cancer, liver and kidney damages
Hazardous cleaning chemicals and you

Through eyes and lungs – corrosive, poisonous.
How can you tell the product is dangerous?

Read the label and follow the directions.

Look for signal words on labels.
CAUTION
WARNING
DANGER
POISON
How can you get chemical exposure?

Routes of exposure

Eyes

Mouth

Skin

Inhalation
Protect yourself

Gloves

Dust mask
Use for dust only.
No protection against fumes or gases.

Safety Glasses

Ventilation

Read and follow product label instructions.
The most dangerous cleaning products

Oven Cleaners

Drain Cleaners

Acid-based Toilet Cleaners
Do you mix cleaning products together?

Clorox/Bleach + Ammonia = Dangerous Gas
Some products look like food

Keep similar cleaning products separated from food.
Some products look like food

Keep product in original container.

Water or Bleach?
Some products look like food

Keep product in original container.

Apple juice or PineSol?
Product Storage

Keep out of reach of children
Product Storage

Store cleaners in upper cabinets.
Product Storage

Install cabinet locks.
Keep the bathroom dry.

- open windows, if possible
- turn on the ceiling fan for at least 1 hour
- wipe dry:
  - shower walls
  - tub
  - floor
Alternative Products

Green Cleaning Kit and Recipe
• Vinegar
• Baking Soda
• Bon Ami
Alternative Products
Grease cleaner

Try using cooking oil. Believe it or not, grease removes grease, and you can easily remove the sticky film left by spattered grease with a greasy paper towel.

- Apply vegetable oil to a paper towel, and rub it over the sticky, greasy mess.
- After removing the stuck-on grease, follow up with a dishwashing liquid and water.

Baking Soda, naturally absorbs grease and odors.

Make a degreasing scrub by mixing baking soda and liquid vegetable oil-based soap to a desired consistency and rub onto the stain. Rinse the area well with warm water.
Oven Cleaner

- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 2 tablespoons of water
- 1 teaspoon of liquid castile soap

Mix all ingredients in a small bowl. Apply paste to the surface of the oven and allow to sit overnight. In the morning, spray with water and scrub, scrub, scrub!

This recipe is from Simply Clean, DIY Solutions for a Naturally Clean Home.
Stove Top

Bon Ami
Bathroom sink

Vinegar and Baking Soda
“Green” products available
“Green” products available

Clean living
Everyday products with sustainable features such as:
- Biodegradable ingredients
- Naturally derived ingredients
- Phosphate free
Look for logos.

Logos and seals from certifying organizations.
Questions?
Resources:
Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222
Household Hazardous Waste Line: 206-296-4692
Business Waste Line: 206-263-8899

References:
Design for the Environment (DfE), US EPA, Website: http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/
“Shelf to Sound”, Steinemann, Anne, University of Washington Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Public Affairs
Green Seal, http://www.greenseal.org/

Alternate Formats Available Voice: (206-263-3050) or TTY Relay: 711