

ALTERNATIVE CLEANSERS

Want safer, cheaper alternatives that really WORK? Try baking soda, vinegar, and lemon (use table salt for extra scrubbing power).

Clean sinks, tubs, toilets: Scrub using a paste of baking soda with dish soap.

Kill mildew: Wipe with straight vinegar, let dry, wash with soap & hot water.

Clear clogged drains: Pour in baking soda and vinegar; let sit 15 minutes; rinse with boiling water.

Eliminate stains, odors: Lemon! Put on undiluted, let sit, wash off. (Lemon also dissolves lime/mineral deposits! Leave on overnight, scrub off.)

MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on all of Vermont's waste districts and alliances, visit dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/local-districts
- Check out GMWEA's other three "Don't Flush It!" brochures for the best advice about things that clog septic and sewer systems, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, and pesticides that poison our natural waters and wells: visit www.gmwea.org to read or download.
- And remember - never flush "flushables!"

This is the fourth brochure created by Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA), thanks to a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, with project support from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and your municipality. Reprinting and distribution is free for non-profit, public use.

GMWEA sincerely thanks the Castleton Content Lab, Castleton University, for help with brochure design & illustration!



Green Mountain
Water Environment
Association

89 Main Street, Ste. 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 229-9111 • www.gmwea.org

Copyright 2020 by GMWEA



This project was funded by agreement LC00A00394, awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. NEIWPC manages LCBP's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and provides input on the program's activities through a partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee. Although the information in this document has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under agreement LC00A00394 to NEIWPC, it has not undergone the Agency's publications review process and therefore viewpoints expressed here may not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NEIWPC, the LCBP Steering Committee, or EPA, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

DON'T FLUSH IT!

VOLUME 4:

HOUSE & GARAGE POLLUTANTS!



Common household products are readily available, but they can damage septic systems and municipal sewer plants -- and many pose danger to human health and the environment.

Never put them into toilets, sinks, or storm drains, or onto driveways or soil.
SEE INSIDE FOR HELPFUL TIPS!

HOME WATER POLLUTION HAZARDS

Typical homes use hundreds of man-made chemicals that can impair septic systems and municipal sewer plants, damage human health, and poison the environment. Keep them out of streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater, or wells by following these simple rules:

1. If the label uses the words *danger*, *toxic*, *caution*, *hazard*, *warning*, *poisonous*, *corrosive* – believe it! They’re legally “hazardous materials.”
2. Never flush or pour them out, indoors or outside! Keep them off driveways and sidewalks, and out of storm drains, soil, and streams.
3. Buy smart -- check the label, seek natural ingredients - and use sparingly.
4. Dispose of unused/unwanted materials properly - see below!
5. Try natural and homemade alternatives - see tips on back panel.

HOUSEHOLD

These products are hazardous - never flush or pour them out! Store them safely until you can take them to a disposal site or collection event provided by your local solid waste management entity.

- Carpet & upholstery cleaners
- Chlorine bleach
- Deck cleaners
- Drain clearing chemicals
- Dry cleaning fluid
- Floor cleaners & waxes
- Furniture polish
- Mildew/mold killers
- Moth balls
- Oil-based paint
- Paint thinners & strippers
- Rust remover
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Tub & tile cleaners
- Turpentine
- Wood stains & preservatives

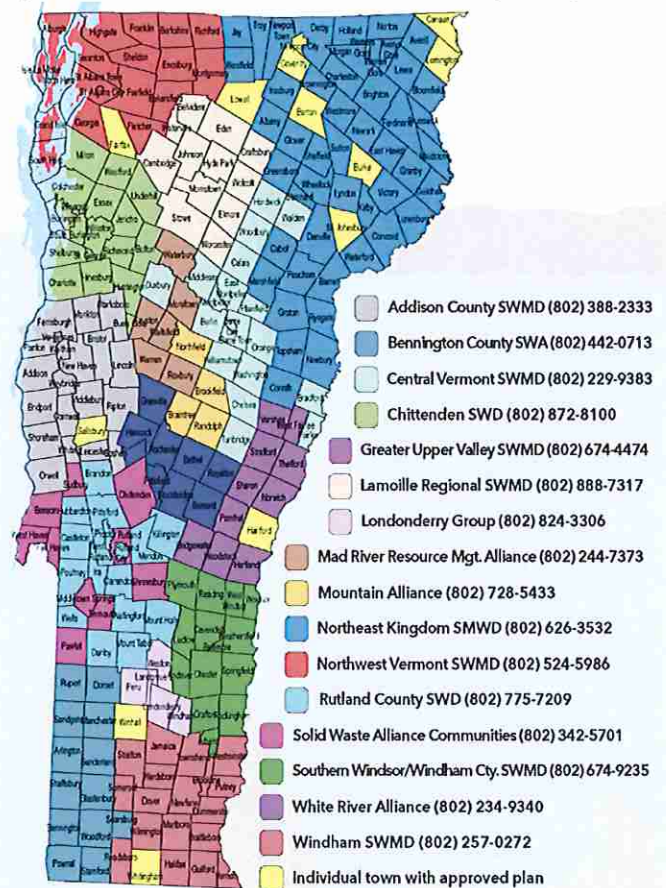
GARAGE & WORKSHOP

If it's in your garage or workshop, it's probably hazardous. Never flush or pour these *anywhere* - not even in floor drains, driveway, street, soil, or curb storm drains. Take them to locations or collection events offered by your solid waste entity.

- Antifreeze
- Battery acid
- Body filler products
- Brake & transmission fluid
- Cutting oil
- Fuel additives
- Gasoline
- Diesel fuel
- Kerosene
- Liquid car wax
- Motor oil

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOLID WASTE ENTITY TO FIND DISPOSAL LOCATIONS & COLLECTION EVENTS.

If you live in a town with an independent waste plan, contact your town clerk or transfer station for safe disposal options.



See back panel for more tips & resources.