MARCH TIP SAVINGS: Over $100/YR
Improved Health & Safety: Priceless

$ USTAINABILITY $ AVINGS TIP

GREENER CHOICES REDUCE HAZARDS IN THE HOUSEHOLD
Everyday products may invite harmful chemicals into your home or garden.

While conventional cleaning products may be leaving your appliances gleaming and your home smelling like freshly squeezed lemons, they may also be leaving behind harmful chemical residues or fumes that can cause a variety of health effects.

Cleaning products aren’t the only things we purchase as consumers that can pollute our homes and the environment. Shift to the garage and the landscape (and why not add the medicine cabinet) and you end up with a chemistry lab of compounds on your shelves. If you do not use up all of the product you purchased, you can’t just throw it in the garbage (or flush it down the toilet) where it may pollute soil, groundwater, and rivers. Mesa has a new Household Hazardous Materials facility that is now available during convenient hours. Products like latex paint and electronics can be recycled, and the new facility will also feature a swap shop for unused or gently used items. But, many items are ultimately destined for hazardous waste landfills, or incineration, both at very high costs.

Nontoxic alternatives exist for many of the everyday products needed around the home. Not only can switching to safer alternatives have a positive impact for you and your family, it will also benefit the environment. Best of all, the desire for friendlier products will send a message to manufacturers.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- Bring your hazardous items to our new Household Hazardous Materials facility during hours of operation, **Wednesday thru Saturday, from 7 a.m. to Noon**. Location: 2412 N. Center Street.
- Prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications are not accepted at the new facility but can be dropped off at MedReturn boxes now available at select police stations.
- Lean more about what items are accepted, locations for the MedReturn boxes, and how to prepare for your visit at [MesaRecycles.org](http://MesaRecycles.org).
- Visit the City of Mesa library for books on green housekeeping, green living, and consuming wisely. Find our [Natural Recipes for Home and Garden](http://mesaaz.gov/sustainability) on the back.

TIPS

- EPA has created a new **SAFER CHOICE label** to help consumers select the best products. Learn more about it at [epa.gov/saferchoice](http://epa.gov/saferchoice).
- Read labels and look for plant-based ingredients, natural enzymes and essential oils. If you must purchase a hazardous product, buy only the amount you need.
- Follow label instructions on the product. Using an excessive amount will only result in greater danger to you and the environment. Purchase only what you intend to use.
- Other outlets collect oil, batteries, CFLs, tires and electronics. Visit [MesaRecycles.org](http://mesaRecycles.org) for additional disposal options.

$START $AVING

Start saving money by avoiding the purchase of unnecessary or hazardous products. Do your part for building a sustainable community by voting with your shopping dollars. Visit [mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://mesaaz.gov/sustainability) for more ideas.
Learn to live Green

Natural Recipes for Home & Garden

These recipes can help to make your home & garden more environmentally friendly. Try these recipes as alternatives to household hazardous products. As with other products used in your home, try these in small and inconspicuous areas first, and always follow manufacturers' cleaning recommendations on furniture, fixtures and carpets.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES:

All Purpose Cleaner: Mix one quarter cup of vinegar with one gallon of hot water. Keep on hand in spray bottle.

Abrasive Cleaner: Mix equal parts of salt and baking soda. Scrub with mixture and wet sponge. Rinse with all-purpose cleaner and then with warm water.

Ant Repellents: Place chili powder, talcum powder or powdered chalk at points of entry.

Bathroom Cleaner: Mix one part of baking soda with a part of hot water. Rinse off mixture and then with warm water.

Brass or Copper Polish: Mix one part salt, one part flour and enough vinegar to make a thick paste. Rub paste on surface and let dry completely. Rinse in warm soapy water, buff with clean soft cloth.

Drain Cleaner: Pour one quarter cup of baking soda down the drain: follow with one-half cup of vinegar. After "fizzing" stops, flush with boiling water.

Floor Cleaner: Mix one-half cup of white vinegar with one-half gallon of warm water.

Furniture Polish: Mix one-half cup of lemon juice with one cup of mineral oil. Rub on wood furniture with soft cloth. A mixture of 3 cups olive oil and 2 cups vinegar can also be an effective polish, just rub on wood with a soft cloth.

Pet Stain Cleaner: Mix one quarter cup of white vinegar and one quarter cup of liquid soap. Rub into stain and then blot. Rinse with warm water.

Silver Polish: Put a sheet of aluminum foil in the bottom of the sink and fill with two to three inches of warm water. Add one tablespoon each of salt and baking soda. Place silver in water, touching foil. Soak for one hour. Rinse in soapy water. Buff with soft, dry cloth.

Window Cleaner: Mix together three tablespoons of vinegar and one quart of hot water. Put in spray bottle. Spray on windows and glass. Wipe off with crumpled newspaper or a squeegee.

Oven Cleaner: Scour with baking soda and water. To prevent grease buildup, always clean spills as soon as the oven cools down.

Laundry Detergent: Try borax or baking soda. Add a few drops of vinegar to keep colors bright.

NATURAL RECIPES FOR A PEST-FREE GARDEN:

A beautiful and healthy garden is possible without the use of expensive and often hazardous chemicals.

All-purpose insect spray:

- 1 garlic bulb
- 1 quart water
- 1 small onion
- 1 tbsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tbsp liquid soap (hand or dish soap only)

Chop or grind garlic and onion, add cayenne and mix with water. Let stand 1 hour, then add liquid soap. Store in a covered jar in the refrigerator up to one week. Use as a spray wherever insects are causing a problem.

ANIMAL REPELLENT SPRAYS:

Use a spray on the plants and yard area where these animals are causing problems.

Cats:

- 2 parts cayenne powder
- 1 garlic
- 3 parts dry mustard powder
- 5 parts flour
- Add sufficient water

Dogs:

- 1 medium onion
- 1 quart water
- 1 tsp Tabasco sauce
- Add sufficient water

Squirrels:

- 1/2 oz. Tabasco sauce
- 1 tsp chile powder
- 1 pint water
- Dash of dish soap

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