



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

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

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

November heralds the start of the holiday season when many of us begin “fall-cleaning” for upcoming visits from friends and relatives. After having our homes closed up through the long hot summer, it’s literally a breath of fresh air to open the windows and clean away summer’s dust and grime. 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 where it may pollute soil, groundwater, and rivers. The City provides Household Hazardous Waste collection events four times a year, and some of the products, like latex paint, can be recycled. However, many products are ultimately destined for special hazardous waste landfills, or incineration, both at very high costs.

**The next Household
Hazardous Waste Event is
Saturday, December 12.**

Thankfully, 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, and should send a message to manufacturers. Mesa residents seem to already be cleaning up their shelves. At the October Household Hazardous Waste event a record 1,100 vehicles dropped off over 15,000 gallons of waste such as gasoline, cleaning agents, aerosols, oil, prescription drugs, paints, and pool chemicals.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- Attend a monthly *Living Green Workshop Series* class to learn more about sustainability. Attend Nov. 14 for **Healthy Home, Healthy You: Do Natural Products Really Make a Difference?** Call (480) 644-4400 for info.
- Visit the City of Mesa library for books on green housekeeping, green living, and consuming wisely. See our list of books at www.mesalibrary.org/research/links/living-green.aspx or call (480) 644-3306 for a copy.
- The Solid Waste Management Department offers a brochure, **Natural Recipes for Home & Garden** that provides tips to make your home and garden environmentally friendly, call (480) 644-2222.

TIPS

- 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.
- Other outlets collect oil, batteries, CFLs, tires and electronics. Visit www.mesaaz.gov/waste/HHW_Options.aspx.
- Look up product health and safety information at the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services site at www.hpd.nlm.nih.gov. Find proper disposal and other great recycling ideas at www.Earth911.com.

\$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 our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green



mesaaz.gov/sustainability