

Shop Safer

Alternatives to Household Hazardous Waste



Bringing your household hazardous waste to a collection event is a good way to protect your family and our islands' limited water supplies.

Another way is to choose safer products that reduce or even eliminate hazardous products in the first place. You can shop safe by using the tips below, reading online lists of certified safer products, or by contacting solidwaste@sanjuanco.com.



clean, sustainable
island living

Product

What to Look For

Painting Supplies (paint, stain, varnish, paint remover, etc.)



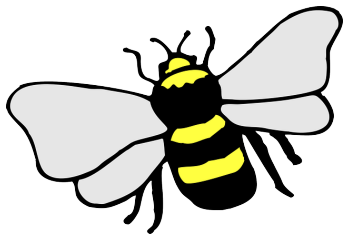
- Reusable paint, available at little-to-no cost at Orcas and Lopez Island waste stations and Ace Hardware San Juan Island
- Latex and other water-based paints and coatings
- Products with zero VOCs (volatile organic compounds)
- Paints and coatings certified by Green Seal, UL GREENGUARD, or SCS Indoor Advantage
- Paint strippers without methylene chloride or NMP



Did You Know...

VOCs commonly found in paint products can cause asthma, headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Long-term exposure can damage the kidneys and liver, and even cause cancer.

Yard and Garden Chemicals



- Pesticides and herbicides that are certified by the Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI)
- Products without neonicotinoids, which can harm honeybees and other pollinators
- Non-chemical pest management products (exclusion, floating row cover, traps, etc.)
- Attracting/using beneficial insects such as ladybugs



Did You Know...

Neonicotinoids in ornamental flower dust, insecticidal sprays, fertilizers, and other landscaping products are largely responsible for the recent decline in the honeybee population. Here are the top five neonicotinoids to avoid: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam.

Product

What to Look For

Cleaners and Degreasers



- Green cleaners certified by Safer Choice, Green Seal, or UL ECOLOGO
- Non-aerosols



Did You Know...

Using green cleaners means fewer toxic chemicals being washed down the drain and released into the air. It's healthier for you and the environment!

Automotive and Marine Products



- Biobased products (avoid brake cleaners with petroleum solvents)
- Non-aerosols (avoid products with a DANGER warning)
- Auto/marine products certified by USDA Biobased, Safer Choice, UL ECOLOGO, or Green Seal



Did You Know...

You can clean most auto/boat surfaces with simple household ingredients like mild dish detergent, baking soda, and vinegar.

Light Bulbs



- LED products certified by ENERGY STAR
 - Light bulbs
 - Retrofit kits
 - Fixtures



Did You Know...

LED light bulbs save energy—and money on your electricity bill! Also, unlike fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs do not contain mercury.

Household Batteries



- Rechargeable nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries with the highest power rating (in mAh) you can find
- Flashlights, lanterns, head lamps, and other equipment with built-in rechargeable batteries
- Equipment that does not need batteries at all

Did You Know...

Rechargeable batteries can be used up to 1,000 times before they need to be replaced, saving you hundreds of dollars over buying disposables!