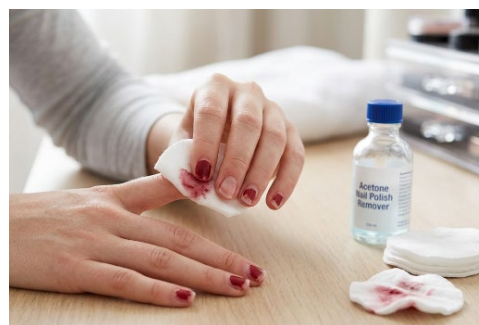


## Hazardous Household Products Concerns

Everyday millions of people use hazardous household products such as cleaning products, bleach, drain cleaners, paints and thinners, and even beauty products. Many of these products are toxic and can cause harm while they are being used. If these products are put down the drain, septic systems and sewage treatment plants cannot completely eliminate them before they are released to the groundwater or surface water, which can be sources of drinking water. It is important to use these products carefully and dispose of them properly. There are also many safer and natural alternatives that are not as dangerous.



## Natural Alternatives

*Disclaimer: The following are suggestions only and are not guaranteed to be completely effective.*

### Bleach

Several natural and safer cleaners can be used instead of bleach. These include:

- Lemon Juice
- Baking Soda
- White Vinegar
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Oxygen-Based Bleach

Note: Always test a spot to ensure that the above cleaners do not discolour or damage the material.



## Drain Cleaners

Instead of using harsh chemical to unclog drain consider using physical removal methods such as plungers or drain snakes.



## Paint Thinners

Consider using following instead of traditional paint thinners:

- Odourless Mineral Spirits
- 100% Citrus Solvent
- Linseed Oil Soap to clean brushes and hands



## Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids

Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs) are chemical contaminants that are heavier than water and do not dissolve in water. These chemicals are most commonly used in commercial and industrial operations. They can be found in dry cleaning chemicals, paints, paint strippers, degreasing and cleaning agents, lubricants, adhesives and may be used in the production of dyes, plastics, textiles, printing inks and pharmaceuticals. If spilled, DNAPLs are extremely difficult and very costly to clean up.

To protect your drinking water supply:

- Replace DNAPLs and organic solvents with other (more eco-friendly!) products when possible
- Develop a spill response plan
- Ensure staff are properly trained on the storage and handling of these chemicals
- Dispose of hazardous wastes properly
- Keep containers sealed and in a secondary spill containment
- Report any spill to the Spills Action Center immediately at 1-800-268-6060
- <https://trentsourceprotection.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/DNAPLs-factsheet-AODA-.pdf>

**There are many more ideas for natural alternatives for Hazardous Household Products.**

Please share your ideas with us: [info@trentsourceprotection.on.ca](mailto:info@trentsourceprotection.on.ca)

**To find a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Site see:**

<https://trentsourceprotection.on.ca/resources/household-hazardous-waste/>



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