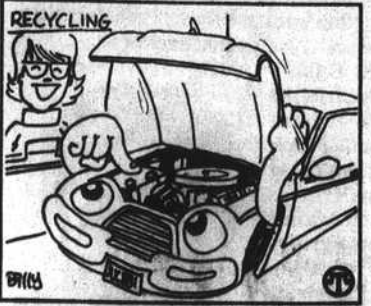


Protecting Our COMMUNITY

Money For Many

The recent success of an on-going battery recycling program is proof that the individual efforts of Americans can lead to dramatic results for our environment. Americans showed such overwhelming response to the cash-refund recycling program that program sponsors elected to share the excitement by donating \$100,000 to support selected organizations involved in environmental protection throughout the nation.



Recycling used car and boat batteries can be profitable for you—and the environment.

The donation, which will award cash grants to FishAmerica Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, National Parks and Conservation Association and the National Audubon Society, was made possible by the great success of a battery recycling program launched in May 1990. The program, sponsored by K mart and Exide Corporation, offers consumers a \$2.00 refund for bringing any junk car or marine battery to their local K mart store.

Junk batteries contain lead and sulfuric acid and may pose serious environmental and safety hazards. Both substances are harmful if handled directly and can create ground contamination problems if not correctly discarded. Exide Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of batteries, chargers and accessories, uses an environmentally-sound process to recycle the lead and plastic from the discarded batteries to manufacture new products.

For those who care about our environment, participating in this recycling program is a real charge.

Extension Notes

Reduce Number of Hazardous Substances In the Kitchen

By JOAN GOSPER
N. C. State University

Many kitchens hold an odd combination of products with nutritious foods on some shelves and deadly poisons on others. There are thousands of household products that contain toxic ingredients. Some, like oven and drain cleaners, are obvious. Others, like air fresheners, polishes and cleansers, are subtler. Improperly used and improperly disposed of, such products can endanger our health and damage our environment.

"There are several steps that you can take to reduce the amount of hazardous products in your home," says Dr. Wilma Hammett, extension housing specialist at North Carolina State University.

Contrary to what advertisers would have you believe, you don't need a different type of cleanser for each surface. There are many products that will clean a variety of surfaces. Read the labels to see how you can use products already on hand.

When you are buying a product, "buy the least harmful product available," Hammett says. "The federal government requires the use of signal words, depending on the level of the hazard."

Products labeled "poison" are the most dangerous. The word "danger" means that the product is extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic. Packages bearing the words "warning" or "caution" are moderately or slightly toxic.

Use an ounce of prevention when it comes to cleaning. "If you allow soil to accumulate, cleaning becomes more difficult. For example, if you wipe up a spill when

it occurs, you can prevent a stain and eliminate the need for tough specialty cleaners which are often more toxic," Hammett says.

Wiping away grease and spills in the oven or putting a liner on the oven bottom to catch spills will reduce the need for oven cleaners. Don't pour grease down the drain, and cover the drain opening with a screen to keep out food scraps and hair. Open a window to air out the house to avoid using chemical air fresheners.

HOMEMADE ALTERNATIVES

Homemade cleaning products are another alternative. Dr. Hammett offers the following "recipes" for cleansers and polishers.

All-Purpose Cleaner

- 1 tablespoon ammonia
- 1 tablespoon liquid detergent
- 2 cups water

Mix ingredients and put in spray bottle. Spray solution on surface. Wipe. Rinse with clear water.

Drain Cleaner

- ½ cup baking soda
- ½ cup white vinegar
- Boiling water

Pour baking soda down the drain. Add white vinegar and cover the drain, if possible. Let set for 5 minutes, then pour a kettle of boiling water down the drain.

"The baking soda and vinegar break down fatty acids into soap and glycerine, allowing the clog to wash down the drain."

Furniture Cleaner and Polish

- 3 cups olive oil
- 1 cup vinegar



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1. From a Distance, *Bette Midler*, Atlantic
2. Because I Love You (The Postman Song), *Stevie B.*, RCA
3. I'm Your Baby Tonight, *Whitney Houston*, Arista
4. Justify My Love, *Madonna*, Warner Bros.
5. Groove in the Heart, *Deee-Lite*, Elektra
6. Something to Believe In, *Poison*, Capitol
7. The Way You Do the Things You Do, *UB40*, Virgin
8. Tom's Diner, *DNA* featuring *Suzanne Vega*, A&M
9. Impulsive, *Wilson Phillips*, SBK
10. Feels Good, *Tony! Toni! Tone!*, Polydor

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