



Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—February 2020

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- Respect and take care of the earth.

Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program

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Reduce Household Hazardous Waste—

Try less-toxic alternatives or make your own Bleach! Why?



The main ingredient in chlorine bleach is sodium hypochlorite (chlorine added to lye.) Chlorine is toxic as a skin irritant, and by inhalation. Workplace safety data sheets warn that sodium hypochlorite may be a neurotoxin and cause liver damage. Sodium hypochlorite readily combines with organic matter to form organochlorines which are highly toxic to aquatic life. Never mix chlorine bleach with vinegar or ammonia (which may be an unlabeled ingredient in some cleaning products). This can create extremely toxic fumes of poisonous chlorine gas.

Less-Toxic Alternatives You Can Buy:

Hydrogen peroxide—drug store dilution. Use 1/2 cup per wash load
OxiClean®—oxygen bleach or Simply Clean®—oxygen bleach powder

Home-Made Alternative to Bleach

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. citric acid (optional – whitens clothes naturally and helps to soften water, making this more effective in hard water)
- distilled water to fill
- 20 drops lemon essential oil
- Amber 1/2 gallon glass jug

DIRECTIONS

- Pour hydrogen peroxide, lemon juice, citric acid (if using), and lemon essential oil into an amber glass bottle. Swish around until citric acid is dissolved.
- Fill the rest of the jug with distilled water and use as you would bleach.

“Talkin’ Trash”

Our Tribal Solid Waste Program is hauling an average of 140 tons of trash per year. We haul Tribal government trash and also rent out waste bins and haul trash for individuals doing cleanups, the Tribal Housing Authority for their cleanups and Tribal programs doing cleanups. The breakdown for the last three years is shown below.



Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority Spring Cleanup—March 23-27, 2020