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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Creating a Clean and Healthy Home Environment

There are many toxic materials which exist right inside many Lakes Region homes. These toxic materials are known as “household hazardous wastes” (HHW) which are substances that can poison or contaminate the environment, and threaten the health of you, your family, and those in the community. They may be flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic and should be disposed of properly so as not to harm people or damage the region’s soil and water resources. Most households use and create hazardous waste every day, resulting in an average of 15.5 pounds per year being tossed into municipal solid waste, which if mixed can cause fires or injury.

Limiting the use of these substances is an important first step towards creating a healthy, clean household and keeping toxic chemicals out of our recreational and drinking water sources. When purchasing supplies for your home or summer cottage this year, consider less toxic alternatives than what you may have used before, whether commercially produced or created yourself by following simple recipes like this easy and effective formulation for all-purpose cleaner:

Mix in an empty spray bottle: two tablespoons baking soda and one pint of warm water. To cut grease, add a splash of vinegar or squeeze of lemon juice.
(Do not use on stone as it may etch the finish.)

More recipes, tips, and videos for other non-toxic cleaners, insect repellants, and personal care products can be found at <https://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp>.

If you do find toxic products in your home that need to be disposed of, the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is coordinating regional HHW collections to be held on July 28 and August 4. For details about the collections, visit the LRPC website at the address listed above or call our office at 279-5341/279-5334.

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