

SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

<u>Product</u>	<u>Alternatives</u>
Air freshener	Baking soda, potpourri, citrus powder, essential oils, or saucers of vinegar around the house to absorb odors.
Aluminum cleaner	Mix 2 tablespoons cream of tartar with one quart water in cookware. Bring solution to a boil and simmer 10 minutes.
Ammonia-based cleaner	White vinegar in a spray bottle.
Ant poison	(1) Clean counter tops with ½ vinegar and ½ water. (2) Place chopped Tansy or Pennyroyal leaves in the affected area.
Bleach cleaner	Use baking soda as a scouring powder or put ½ cup in with the laundry.
Brass/Copper cleaner	Make a paste out of lemon juice and baking soda. Should have the consistency of toothpaste. Rub with soft cloth. Rinse well.
Chemical fertilizers	Compost vegetable scraps and yard waste into a naturally rich soil additive.
Cleaners: general household	Use liquid castle soap. Use as directed.
Cockroach poison	Mixture of chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins.
Drain cleaners	Pour baking soda in drain followed by equal amount of vinegar. Cover 15 minutes. Then, pour boiling water down the drain. Use plunger or plumber's snake.
Fabric softener	Add ¼ cup baking soda or ¼ cup vinegar to rinse water.
Flea collars and sprays Flea poisons/dust	Brewer's Yeast in pet diet. (consult your Vet for proper amount) Place small light above a pan of water. Fleas will jump at light. land in water and drown.
Fly repellents	Mint plants set in windowsills help repel flies. USE A FLY SWATTER!
Floor cleaner	Mix ½ cup vinegar into 1 gallon of warm water.
Furniture cleaner/polish	Plain wood: Wipe surfaces with a damp (water) cloth and dry immediately. Oil finished: Mix thoroughly, 3 cups olive oil and 1 cup vinegar. Use clean dry cloth to apply to furniture. Water stains: toothpaste on damp cloth.
Glass/Window cleaner	Mix ½ cup vinegar and 1 quart warm water. Wipe with newspaper.
Houseplant insecticide	Mix 2 tablespoons dish washing liquid with 2 cups water. Spray on leaves.
Mothballs	Place cedar chips or blocks with clothes. Store in airtight containers.
Oven cleaners	(1) Sprinkle water on oven surface. Apply baking soda. Rub using a very fine steel wool. Wipe with damp sponge. (2) While oven is still warm, sprinkle water on spill than sprinkle salt. When cool, scrape spill and wash.
Paint	Use water-based or limestone-based (whitewash) instead of oil-based paint.
Rat poison	Screens over drains, mechanical-snap traps, ultrasonic wave emitting devices. Saucer of dehydrated mashed potatoes. (will cause fatal bloating)
Rust remover	Scrub with lemon juice mixed with salt.
Scouring powder	Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub surface.
Spot remover	Club Soda for stains from fruit juices, tea, gravy, ketchup, and mud. Immediate cold water for blood stains. Lemon juice for ink and perspiration. Beaten egg whites for leather.
Toilet bowl cleaner	Scrub well with baking soda.
Tub and tile cleaner	Mix ¼ cup baking soda, ½ cup white vinegar and warm water
Wine stain removal	Water or rubbing alcohol
For additional information on pest control, contact the Cooperative Extension Service @ 697-4851	