



Alternatives to Hazardous Household Products

Cleaning Product	Alternative Cleaning Product
Air Freshener	Simmer water with herbs or spices; or use baking soda in a dish to absorb odors.
All-purpose Cleaner	Mix 1/4 cup of ammonia, 1/4 cup of vinegar, 2/3 cup of baking soda, and 1 gallon of warm water.
Carpet & Rug Cleaner	Sprinkle cornmeal on DRY carpets to absorb dirt and grease. Wait 5 minutes and vacuum thoroughly. For stains, mix 1 cup liquid soap with 1/3 cup warm water, and whip into a foam and apply. Wipe clean with cloth and warm water.
Drain Cleaner	Pour 1 cup of baking soda down the drain. Follow that with 1 cup of white vinegar. Let stand for 15 minutes, then flush with boiling water.
Fabric Softener	Pour 1/4 cup white vinegar into the final rinse cycle.
Floor Stripper (for removal of old wax)	Pour a small amount of club soda on a section of the floor. Scrub well, let soak for a few minutes, and then wipe clean.
Floor Wax	Mix 1 part thick boiled starch with 1 part liquid soap. Rub the mixture on the floor and polish dry with a soft clean cloth.
Furniture Polish	For wood that has been stained but not varnished or painted: Use olive oil on a cloth to polish. For wood that has been varnished or painted: Mix 2 tbsp olive oil with 1 tbsp white vinegar and 1 liter water in a spray bottle. Spray the furniture lightly and dry with a cloth.
Glass & Mirror Cleaner	Mix in a spray bottle 1 qt. water and 2 tsp. white vinegar. Spray on and dry with a rag or crumpled up newspaper.
Household Insecticide	Sprinkle red pepper, chili pepper or paprika wherever insects enter the house.
Metal Polish/ Cleaner	<i>Aluminum</i> - Boil 1 qt. of water and 2 tbsp. of cream of tartar; immerse product and simmer for 10 min. <i>Brass, bronze, chrome</i> - Dissolve 1 tsp. of salt in 1 cup of white vinegar, and add enough flour to make a stiff paste. Apply the paste to metal and let stand for 30 min. Rinse with warm water, and buff. <i>Copper</i> - Mix table salt with enough lemon juice to make it wet, and rub on product with a soft clean cloth. <i>Silver</i> - Place a sheet of aluminum foil into a plastic bowl. Sprinkle the foil with 1 tsp. table salt and 1 tsp. baking soda, and fill bowl with warm water. Soak your silver in the bowl, and then dry and buff with soft clean cloth.

Mothballs	Use cedar chips or dried lavender in the drawer or closet.
Oven Cleaner	Combine equal parts of baking soda and salt, and mix this with enough water to form a paste. Use a steel wool scrubbing pad to apply the paste. Avoid wires and heating elements.
Shoe Polish	Use olive oil or beeswax with a cloth and then buff.
Spot Removers	Club soda for fruit juice; lemon juice for ink and sweat; baking soda for urine; cold water for blood; mix corn meal and water, and soak for general spots.
Tub & Tile Cleaner	Mix 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 cup white vinegar, 1 cup ammonia into 1 gallon of warm water. Then apply with a sponge.
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Scrub the bowl with baking soda and a mild soap, then pour 1/4 cup bleach into bowl and scrub; let sit for 15 min. and flush.