

Make Your Own! Less Harmful Alternatives for Household Cleaning Products

All Purpose Cleaner



Vinegar and Salt – Mix together for a good surface cleaner.

Baking Soda – Dissolve 4 tablespoons baking soda in 1 quart warm water, or use baking soda on a damp sponge. Baking soda will clean and deodorize all kitchen and bathroom surfaces.

Air Freshener

Set out vinegar in an open dish. Open a box of baking soda in closed in areas. For scent, use pine boughs or sachets of herbs and flowers.



Ants

Mix 1 cup flour and 2 cups Borax* in a quart jar. Punch holes in the jar lid and sprinkle contents around house foundation.

For ants and roaches, wash kitchen or other infested areas with vinegar solution. You can also sprinkle bone meal, chili powder, lemon juice or powdered charcoal in and around points of entry.

*Note: Keep Borax out of reach of children and pets.

Bathroom Cleaner

Use baking soda in place of scouring powder. Sprinkle it on porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet sponge. Add a little soap to the sponge for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film.

Carpet Cleaner, Deodorizer



Sprinkle baking soda liberally on a carpet before vacuuming. Or, mix 2 cups baking soda, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornstarch and 4 crumbled bay leaves. Sprinkle on carpet and wait an hour or more before vacuuming.

Disinfectant

Soap – Regular cleaning with plain soap and hot water will kill some bacteria.

Keep Dry – Mold, mildew and bacteria cannot live without dampness.

Borax* – Borax is recognized for its disinfectant and deodorizing properties. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Borax* into 1 gallon of hot water and clean with this solution.

***Note: Keep Borax out of reach of children and pets.**

Drain Cleaner

Prevention: To avoid clogging drains, use a drain strainer to trap food particles and hair; collect grease in cans rather than pouring it down the drain; pour a kettle of hot water down the drain regularly to remove fat build up in the pipes.

Or,

½ Cup Baking Soda

½ Cup Vinegar

Kettle of Boiling Water



This recipe will free minor clogs and is a great preventative medicine. Pour the baking soda down the drain first, then the vinegar. Cover the drain. Let it bubble for a few minutes. Then pour down a teakettle full of boiling water. Repeat if needed. If clog is stubborn, use a mechanical snake.



Fabric Softener

Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup baking soda to final rinse.



Fleas

Vacuum, then remove bag, seal it and dispose of it immediately outside your home.



Vinegar – A ratio of 1 teaspoon vinegar to 1 quart water (per 40 pounds of pet weight) in their drinking water helps keep your pet free of fleas and ticks.

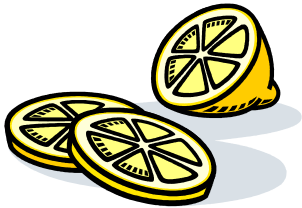
Furniture Polish

Mix 3 parts olive oil to 1 part vinegar. Apply and polish with a clean, soft cloth.

Or,



Mix 2 parts olive oil to 1 part lemon juice. Apply and polish with a clean, soft cloth.



Or,

Substitute 1 tablespoon lemon juice mixed in 1 pint of mineral oil.

Water spots on furniture – to remove water marks on furniture, rub gently with toothpaste on a damp cloth.

Dusting – Use $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white vinegar per quart of water. Apply with a tightly wrung soft cloth.



Lime and Mineral Deposit Remover

Lime deposits around faucets can be softened for easy removal by covering the deposits with vinegar-soaked paper towels or rags. Leave paper towels or rags on for about one hour before cleaning. Also keeps chrome clean and shiny.

To remove deposits which may be clogging metal showerheads, combine $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar and 1 quart water. Completely submerge the showerhead and boil for 15 minutes.

If you have a plastic showerhead, combine 1 pint white vinegar and 1 pint hot water. Completely submerge the showerhead and soak for about 1 hour.



Oven Cleaner

Dampen grimy spots and sprinkle with salt while the oven is still warm. Scrape off after it cools. Clean greasy spots with vinegar or a paste of baking soda and water.



Window Cleaner

Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar and a few drops liquid soap (optional) into 1 quart of warm water. Pour into a spray bottle and use on glass surfaces. Rub with a lint-free cloth and polish with a wadded up newspaper. For really dirty outdoor windows, wash with soapy water, rinse and then squeegee dry.

Roaches

Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Borax* and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour and place in a jar. Punch holes in the jar lid and sprinkle contents along baseboards and doorsills. To kill roaches, sprinkle a mix of baking soda and powdered sugar.

*Note: Keep Borax out of reach of children and pets.



Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Strong disinfectants and acids are not needed to clean your toilet. Use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or baking soda and soap to clean the toilet bowl thoroughly and often.

Or,



Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chlorine bleach into the toilet bowl, let stand for 30 minutes, brush and flush.

Or,

Sprinkle baking soda into the toilet bowl, follow with $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vinegar, let set for 1 hour, then brush and flush.



Yard and Garden



- ❖ Keep plants healthy by making sure they have the nutrients and water they need.
- ❖ To reduce the chance of rot and mildew, water plants in the morning and water the roots, not the leaves.
- ❖ Explore the use of companion planting techniques-growing plants such as onion, garlic or marigolds next to other plants to keep pests away.
 - ❖ Rotate garden crops.
 - ❖ Use garden fabric, plastic or mulch to keep weeds under control.
 - ❖ You can use grass clippings as mulch as long as the grass wasn't treated with herbicides or pesticides.
 - ❖ For pests that invade house or garden plants, chop up tomato leaves and soak them in water, strain, then spray on plants.
 - ❖ Mix 6 cloves, 1 clove crushed garlic, 1 tablespoon pure soap (not detergent) and 1 gallon hot water, let sit for 1 or 2 days. Strain before using, then spray on plants.



Miscellaneous

- ❖ Garbage Can Cleaner – Mix ½ cup Borax* with 1 gallon of warm water. Spray, rinse, dry in the sun.
- ❖ Metal Cleaner and Polish – For aluminum, bronze, chrome, pewter and stainless steel, use vinegar or a combination of vinegar and salt.
 - ❖ Catsup removes tarnish from copper.
 - ❖ Use toothpaste on gold.
- ❖ For copper and brass, mix equal parts vinegar, salt and flour into a paste and coat the copper or brass object. Wait 10 minutes, then scrub, rinse and buff.

*Note: Keep Borax out of reach of children and pets.



Remember, Stop and Think Before You Purchase Household Hazardous Products!



- Read the Label!

- Buy only what you need.

More is not better if you do not use it up.

If you have extra:

- Share leftovers with friends, neighbors, relatives, schools, shelters, religious organizations, etc.

- Visit your household hazardous waste facility to dispose of any excess that you can't use up or share.

We encourage all residents to protect our
water resources by using the
Household Hazardous Waste facility located at the
Butler County Landfill
(SW Boyer and 40th Street).



The site is open Monday through Friday from
8:30 AM to 5:30 PM and
Saturday 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Household limit is 5 gallons or 40 pounds.

Small Quantity Generators (ie. those who generate waste as part of their
business) should call the Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste
Site at 316-660-7464.

For More Information, Contact:
Butler County Solid Waste Coordinator
316-322-4127