



Safer Cleaning Recipes

Possibly Harmful

Safer Alternative

General cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vinegar solution* ● Three tablespoons washing soda in quart of water ● Baking soda paste**
Scouring powder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baking soda (do not use on aluminum), salt or borax
Drain cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prevent clogs by using a strainer and keep hair, lint, food, or coffee grounds out of the drain ● Pour 2-4 quarts of boiling water down drain weekly ● Put 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup vinegar down drain, wait 15 minutes and flush with boiling water ● Use a plunger or snake
Room deodorizer/freshener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place vinegar or vanilla in a dish for one hour ● Simmer 1 teaspoon of either pine oil, cloves, cinnamon stick, or vanilla in 1 cup water for 5 minutes <p><i>Keep out of reach of children and pets.</i></p>
Oven cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wipe up spills as soon as possible ● Catch spills under baking pan with baking sheet or foil ● Sprinkle spills with baking soda or salt while still warm, then wipe spills off
Laundry/stain remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a baking soda paste** on stains or add dry baking soda ● Use brush and an abrasive soap ● Rub chalk on grease stains, let set, wash ● For perspiration stains, apply either: salt water solution; baking soda paste**; vinegar solution*
Toilet bowl cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a baking soda or borax and vinegar paste. Let sit 2 hours, then scrub ● Flat cola for 1/2 to 1 hour, then brush and flush
Porcelain cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a nylon pad with baking soda paste** or after rubbing with cut lemon ● Place vinegar or vanilla in a dish for one hour
Grout cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a toothbrush with either: undiluted vinegar; 3 parts baking soda with one part water; toothpaste; denture cream

* Vinegar solution: 1/4 cup white vinegar in 1 quart warm water, add lemon juice for scent

** Baking soda paste: Mix equal parts baking soda and warm water

MORE

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<p>Window/glass cleaner (Note: If you have been using commercial glass cleaners, these recipes may smudge during first time due to a wax build up.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use either: vinegar solution*; 2 teaspoons borax or washing soda in 3 cups water; wipe with newspaper
<p>Silver polish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rub with baking soda paste** or dry kitchen flour
<p>Furniture cleaner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (wood) mix 3/4 cup olive oil, 1/4 cup vinegar. Rub into wood with soft cloth. ● (leather) mix 1/4 cup olive oil, few drops of lemon oil. Saturate cloth and apply. ● (vinyl) mix 1/4 cup vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil-based soap, water. Saturate cloth and apply.
<p>Floor cleaners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (tile) vinegar solution* ● (wood) mix 1/8 cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap, 1 gallon water ● (no-wax floors) mix 1/4 cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap, 1/4 cup lemon juice, 2 gallons hot water
<p>Moth balls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Store clean clothes in tightly sealed containers or cedar chests ● Repel moths with cloves, lavender, tansy, wormwood, bunches of woodruff, whole peppercorns, bags of cedar shavings, dried lemon peel, or rosemary and mint

Make sure homemade mixtures are properly labeled. Do not store in containers that could be mistaken for a food or beverage.

**Do not mix anything with commercial cleaners.
Always keep cleaning products out of reach of children and pets.**

This information was reproduced from "Household Hazards: A Guide to Detoxifying Your Home" by the League of Women Voters of Albany County, NY, and "Non-Toxic Household Cleaners" by the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

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Center for Ecological Technology
112 Elm St., Pittsfield MA 01201
1-800-238-1221
<http://www.cetonline.org>

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