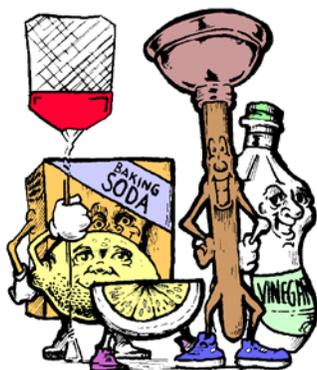




FACT SHEET

Safe Substitutes for Hazardous Household Products



Spot remover: Use club soda, lemon juice, or salt.

All-purpose cleaner: In one quart warm or hot water, mix one teaspoon liquid soap, boric acid (borax), lemon juice and/or vinegar. Make stronger according to the job to be done.

Hand cleaner: Paint/Grease – use baby oil.

Bleach: Instead use a ½ cup of borax per load to whiten laundry and remove stains.

Glass Cleaner: Use 2 tablespoons of vinegar to quart of water.

Drain cleaner: Pour boiling water down the drain once a week. Use a plunger or mechanical snake.

Ink: If stain has set on white fabric, wet with cold water and apply paste of cream of tartar and lemon juice. Let sit one hour and wash as usual.

Furniture polish: Wipe a mixture of one teaspoon lemon oil in one pint

mineral or vegetable oil.

Mildew Cleaner: Scrub with baking soda or borax for extended mold inhibition. Do not rinse.

Oil-based paints: Instead use latex or water-based paints.

Oven cleaner: Clean spills as soon as the oven cools using steel wool and baking soda; for tough stains, add salt (do not use this method in self-cleaning or continuous-clean ovens).

Roach and ant repellent: Sprinkle powdered boric acid in cabinet edges, around baseboards and in cracks.

Rug deodorizer and shampoo: Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary. To clean rugs, vacuum first to remove dirt. Mix one quart white vinegar and three quarts boiling water. Apply to nap of rug with wet rag being careful not to saturate rug backing. Dry thoroughly then vacuum.

Silver polish: Use nonabrasive toothpaste.

Toilet bowl cleaner: Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar.



NEVER mix bleach and ammonia. That combo creates a deadly gas.

Environmentally Safe Stain Removal

Coffee & tea stains: Wipe clean with a paste made of baking soda and water, or salt and white vinegar.

Bathtub/sink stains: Scrub with a paste made of cream of tartar and hydrogen peroxide.

Blood stains: Douse spots with hydrogen peroxide (if fabric is bleachable) or diluted ammonia before rinsing in cool water. Avoid hot water; heat will set the bloodstain.

Brass & copper tarnish: Mix together equal parts salt and flour, then add enough white vinegar to make a paste. Rub into stain. This may require more than one application.

Grease/oil marks: Gently rub in talcum powder, cornmeal or cornstarch; let set, then brush or sponge powder away.

Mildew: Scrub walls and floors with a brush dipped in borax and water. For books or papers, dust with talcum powder, cornmeal or cornstarch, let set for two days; then brush off.

Mustard stains: Soak stained area with diluted ammonia before laundering.

Perspiration stains: Rub stained areas with white vinegar before laundering. (Keep vinegar handy in a squirt bottle to saturate such stains before laundering.)

Pet urine: Dampen area with equal parts of white vinegar and water and blot dry.

Price stickers: Saturate with vegetable or baby oil before removing.

Rust stains: Rub with lemon juice and salt, and then rinse thoroughly with water.

Wine spills: Pour club soda on the spill, then sponge up the soda and wine.

DO NOT mix anything with a commercial cleaning agent. When preparing alternatives, mix only what is needed for the job at hand and mix them in clean, reusable containers. This avoids waste and the need to store any cleaning mixture. If you store a homemade mixture, make sure it is properly labeled and do not store it in a container that could be mistaken for food or beverage.

Fluorescent light bulbs, both compact and tubes, contain a small amount of mercury and should not be placed with household garbage. Burned out bulbs can be taken to the return desk at any Home Depot store at no cost for proper disposal.

TIPS:

Only buy the amount of material that you will need.

Read the labels carefully before purchasing.

Use a non-hazardous substitute in place of hazardous materials whenever possible.

Know what to do in case of an emergency or accident.

Don't pour hazardous materials into your sink or storm drains; do not place it in the trash – the material could leak.

Store the materials properly – well out of the reach of children and pets.

This publication is a partnership with the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (<https://waste.ky.gov>) and the Oldham County Environmental Authority/Stormwater Management Division & Solid Waste Department. (www.oldhamcountyky.gov)

Artwork courtesy of California Integrated Waste Management Board.
