

SAFER ALTERNATIVES RECIPES

These and recipes like them can be found through simple Google searches.

Bleach Based Cleaner

- Use non-chlorine dry bleach or washing soda
- Use hydrogen peroxide-based liquid bleaches

All-Purpose Cleaner

- Mix ½ cup white vinegar in 1 quart water

Scouring Powder

- Baking soda and hot water

Dish Cleaner

- Choose dishwashing detergents with low or no phosphates
- Use vegetable oil-based soaps for hand washing

Disinfectant

- White Vinegar
- ½ cup borax in 1 gallon of water

Drain Opener

- Use a plunger or metal snake
- Pour ½ cup baking soda followed by ½ cup white vinegar down the drain, cover and let sit for 5 minutes.
- Pour boiling water down the drain to flush

Floor Cleaner

- Vinyl and tile floors- mix ¼ cup washing soda and ¼ cup vinegar into a gallon of warm water
- Wood floors- vegetable oil soap and water

Furniture Polish

- Unvarnished wood- almond, walnut, or olive oil
- Varnished wood- vegetable oil soap

Glass Cleaner

- Mix ½ cup vinegar with ¼ teaspoon liquid soap in 1-gallon of water
- Mix lemon juice with water

Laundry Detergent (Okay for High Efficiency washing machines)

- 1 bar Ivory, Fels Naptha, or Zote soap, grated
- 1 cup borax
- 1 cup washing soda
- A five-gallon bucket with a lid
- Warm water
 - **Directions**
 - On the stovetop, place four cups of water and add the grated soap. Heat up and stir until all the soap is dissolved.
 - Pour the soap mixture in the bucket and add the borax and washing soda.
 - Fill up the bucket with warm water and stir until all is dissolved.
 - Use ½ to 1 cup for a large load of laundry.

Oven Cleaner

- Baking soda, salt, and hot water
- Mix 2 tablespoons of dish soap and 2 cups of warm water. Apply and let sit 20 minutes.
- Non-chlorinated scouring powder
- Use oven-liners to catch drips

Rug and Upholstery Cleaner

- Sprinkle baking soda on rug and vacuum
- Use soap based, non-aerosol rug shampoo
- Pour club soda on spill and blot

Silver and Copper Polish

- Soak silver in 1 quart warm water with 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Pour vinegar and salt over copper and rub

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- Mix ½ cup borax and 1-gallon water to clean and deodorize. Let 1 cup of borax sit in the bowl overnight.
- Coat stains in toilet bowl with a paste of lemon and borax. Let sit for 20 minutes, then scrub.

Chemical Fertilizer

- Compost
- Wood ash
- Fish meal

Flea Collars and Spray

- Eucalyptus, melaleuca, or tea tree oil

- Spray on Collar, on and around bedding, use as ointment or in bath.

Pesticide

- Release ladybugs or praying mantis for aphids and other soft body pests
- Spray with soapy water

Herbicide

- Boiling water poured on weeds
- 1 part salt to 8 cups hot water, 1 teaspoon of dish soap, spray on weeds
- ¼ cup salt, 4 cups white vinegar, 1 teaspoon of dish soap, spray on weeds

Roach Repellent

- Non-toxic roach traps
- Dust boric acid into areas where roaches hide

Rodent Bait

- Use traps

Snail/Slug Killer

- Apply diatomaceous earth ½ around plants
- Fill a shallow container with beer and put it in the ground so that the lip of the container is even with the ground.

Oil-Based Paint

- Use water based latex or acrylic paint with low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

Furniture Stripper

- Use sandpaper or a power sander, a heat gun, or a paint scraper
- Use water-soluble paint strippers

Stains and Varnish

- Use water-based preservatives
- Use natural earth pigment finishes
- Linseed oil

Thinners and Solvents

- Non-chlorinated solvents such as isopropanol, ethanol, acetone, and turpentine are less toxic than chlorinated solvents.

Air Freshener

- Ventilate with outdoor air
- Use potpourri or a sachet