



Use safer cleaning substitutes to protect your family and the environment and to save money.

Safety Tips:

- Never mix chlorine bleach with any other cleaning agent (e.g. ammonia or vinegar). It may create toxic fumes.
- Store all cleaning products out of the reach of children.
- Never use containers that once held food or drinks (e.g. milk jugs, juice bottles, etc.).
- Clearly label all spray bottles and containers.
- Keep containers tightly closed to prevent harmful fumes from escaping.
- Mix cleaning solutions in well ventilated areas.
- Read labels and follow directions on all cleaning products.
- Post the poison control number by your telephones:
1-800-222-1222.

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The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.

Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products



Relatively non-toxic
cleaning
alternatives

Tel: 850-890-8172



Disinfectants

Mix 1/2 cup bleach and 1 cup of water in a labeled spray bottle. *NEVER mix bleach and ammonia.*

Add 1/2 cup Borax to one gallon of water. Borax has long been recognized as a disinfectant and deodorizer.

All-Purpose Cleaners

Dissolve 4 tablespoons baking soda in 1 quart warm water. Or use baking soda on a damp sponge.

Mix equal parts vinegar and salt.

Mix 2 Tbsp. ammonia and 2 Tbsp. liquid detergent in 1 quart warm water.

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaners

To neutralize odors, mix 1 cup Borax with 2 cups cornstarch. Sprinkle on carpet. Let stand for one hour before vacuuming.

Mix 1/2 cup mild liquid dishwashing detergent with 1 pint boiling water. Let cool. With an electric mixer, whip into thick foam. Apply foam to carpet or upholstery with a damp sponge. To rinse, add 1 cup of vinegar to 1 gallon lukewarm water. Rinse well using as little liquid as possible, changing water often. Open windows and use fans to speed drying. *(Be sure to test a small, unseen area first. Don't soak fabric or carpet—it may mildew.)*

Toilet cleaner

Sprinkle with baking soda, drizzle with vinegar and scour using a toilet brush.

Tub and tile cleaner

Apply full strength vinegar using a sponge. Mix 3 cups baking soda and 1 cup warm water into a paste. Scour and rinse thoroughly with clean water.

Floor Cleaners

Linoleum: Damp mop using a mild detergent and water. To preserve the floor you may wish to add a capful of baby oil to the mop water.

Wood Floors: Mix equal parts of vegetable oil and vinegar. Apply a thin coat, rub in well.

Brick, stone, ceramic tile: Mix 1 cup white vinegar into 1 gallon water. Scrub using a brush and the solution. Rinse with clean water.

Glass cleaners

Mix equal parts vinegar and water. Dry using a soft cloth. For stubborn spots and streaks use undiluted vinegar.

Mix 1 Tbsp. lemon juice with 1 quart water. Wipe dry.

Mix 1 cup Borax with 3 cups water. Wipe dry.

Mix 3 Tbsp. ammonia, 1 Tbsp. vinegar, 3/4 cup water in clean, labeled spray bottle.

Furniture Polishes

Make dust cloths that gather dust, not scatter it around. Add a few drops of oil or wax in a container, place clothes inside, cover tightly and leave overnight. Cloths absorb enough oil or wax to dust and polish surfaces at the same time.

Use lemon oil or olive oil and beeswax.

Mix 2 tsp. lemon oil and 1 pint mineral oil in a spray bottle.

Oven Cleaners

Scrub with baking soda, salt and water paste. Scour racks and burner inserts. *Do not let baking soda touch wires or heating elements.*

Consumers Union chemists declared Arm & Hammer Oven Cleaner nontoxic. Use according to label directions.

Painted Surfaces

Wash walls from baseboard up to prevent streaking. Gloss-enameled paints are easier to clean.

Mix 1 tsp. Borax into 1 gallon hot water. Test in small, unseen area.

Laundry Products

Add 1 to 2 cups of vinegar to the final rinse cycle to remove soap residue. Especially good for baby clothes, laundry odors and to get wool and cotton blankets soft and fluffy. Do not add vinegar to laundry if bleach is used.

Dry Bleach containing sodium perborate are of low toxicity (irritates skin if used in strong solution). Use according to package directions.

Mix 1 Tbsp cornstarch with 1 pint of cold water in a labeled spray bottle for homemade starch.

Add 1/4 to 1/2 cup baking soda per wash load to make clothes feel soft and smell fresh.

Air Fresheners

Distribute partially filled saucers of vinegar around the room or boil 1 tablespoon of white vinegar in 1 cup of water to eliminate unpleasant cooking odors.

Boil cinnamon and cloves for a fragrant smell. For ease of cleaning, make a cheesecloth bag to contain these spices, and boil the cheesecloth bag. Or steep spiced tea or cider.

Buy or make your own potpourri from your favorite herbs and spices. Place the potpourri in a small basket or jar or in small sachet bags.

Add pure vanilla on a cotton ball in a small saucer. Place the saucer in the car or refrigerator to remove odors. It is reported to remove even skunk odors. Keep the cottonball out of reach of children; vanilla has a high alcohol content.