

Safe Alternatives to Household Chemicals

ANT CONTROL

Sprinkle cream of tartar in front of the ant's path. (Ants will not cross over it).

DEODORIZERS AND AIR FRESHENERS

Baking soda placed in the refrigerator reduces odors.

Simmer 1 teaspoon of pine oil, cloves, cinnamon, or vanilla in 1 cup water.

Fresh cut flowers or dried flower petals and spices can add a nice scent to a room.

DRAIN OPENERS

Pour 2 to 4 quarts of boiling water down the drain weekly.

Put one-half cup baking soda and one-half cup vinegar down the drain, wait 15 minutes and flush with boiling water.

Use a plunger or a plumber's snake.

FLOOR CLEANERS

Tile: Put one-quarter cup of vinegar in one quart of water. Add lemon juice for scent.

Wood: Mix 1/8 cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap and one gallon of water.

No-wax floors: Mix one-quarter cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap, one-quarter cup lemon juice and two gallons hot water.

Use washing soda (crystalline sodium carbonate) and water.

FURNITURE POLISH, WOOD

Mix three-quarter cup of olive oil and one-quarter cup vinegar. Rub into wood with soft cloth.

Mix one teaspoon of lemon juice in one pint of mineral or vegetable oil. Rub into wood with soft cloth.

GENERAL / ALL-PURPOSE CLEANERS

Mix three tablespoons washing soda in one quart of warm water.

Use equal parts baking soda and warm water to make a paste.

Mix one-quarter cup white vinegar and one quart of warm water, adding lemon juice for scent.

GLASS AND WINDOW CLEANERS

Mix one-quarter cup of vinegar and one quart warm water; wipe with newspapers.

Mix two teaspoons borax or washing soda in three cups water; wipe with newspapers.

Use lemon juice and dry with a soft cloth.

GROUT CLEANER

Use a toothbrush with either:

Undiluted vinegar

Three parts baking soda and one part water

Toothpaste or denture cream

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LAUNDRY / STAIN REMOVER

Use a baking soda paste on stains or add dry baking soda.

Rub chalk on grease stains, let set, wash.

Use a brush and an abrasive soap for stains.

OVEN CLEANERS

Mix three tablespoons of washing soda with one quart of warm water.

Sprinkle salt or baking soda on spills while the spill is warm and then scrub.

Clean spills using steel wool and baking soda.

PESTICIDES

Plant marigolds around/throughout the affected area.

RAT POISON

Put a screen over drains.

Use mechanical snap mouse and rat traps.

RUG DEODORIZER

Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary.

SCOURING POWDER

Dip a damp cloth or nylon pad in baking soda and rub.

Use steel wool.

SILVER POLISH

Use nonabrasive toothpaste.

Rub with baking soda paste or dry kitchen flour.

TOILET BOWL CLEANER

Use a baking soda or borax and vinegar paste. Let sit two hours, then scrub.

Pour flat cola into bowl, let sit for 30 - 60 minutes and scrub.



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