

Less Toxic Alternatives

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner

- Clean stains immediately with club soda. Sprinkle cornstarch on rug and vacuum.
- Use soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo.

Cleaners

- Mix vinegar with salt and water for a good surface cleaner.
- Dissolve baking soda in water for a general cleaner.

Glass Cleaner

- Combine a quart of water with $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white vinegar, 1 to 2 tablespoons of lemon juice or 1 to 2 tablespoons of rubbing alcohol; spray on surfaces and wipe clean with soft, lint-free cloth.
- Try using old newspaper and a little water or vinegar to clean glass, it's a great re-use that really works.

Porcelain Cleaner

- Make paste from baking soda and water, apply to stain, let set, rub, clean, rinse.

Mildew Cleaners

- Scrub mildew spots with baking soda or borax, or sponge with white vinegar.
- Scrub area with a paste of lemon juice or white vinegar and salt.

Multi- purpose Cleaner

- Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ammonia, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup vinegar and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.

Scouring Powder

- Use baking soda, salt, or a non-chlorinated commercial scouring powder.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- Scrub with a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup borax in a gallon of water for cleaning and disinfecting.

Tub/Tile Cleaner

- Use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or baking soda.

Drain Cleaner

- Pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white vinegar. Let sit for a few minutes, then pour a kettle of boiling water down the drain to flush.

Laundry Products

- Use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup borax per load of laundry to whiten and brighten colors and to remove spots.
- Reduce bleach in half and add $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda per load.

Polishes

- To clean wood floors, damp mop with a mild vegetable oil soap; dry immediately.
- Polish unfinished wood with mineral oil and finished with mild vegetable soap.
- Polish brass and silver with toothpaste.

Pesticides

- Ants: Mix 2 tablespoons boric acid, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and a cup of water. Soak paper towels, place on dishes, and set out for ants. Keep away from children and pets.
- Mosquitoes: Control mosquitoes by eliminating sources of standing water, planting mint in your yard, and using natural repellants such as citronella or pennyroyal.
- Roaches: Sprinkle cracks and dark places with a boric acid formulation.
- Fleas: Vacuum, seal the “catch” in the vacuum bag, and throw away. Consult your veterinarian about different flea control products.
- Slugs: Place a bowl of beer near your flowers or problem area, slugs will be attracted and drown.
- Moth Balls: Sew dried lavender or cedar chips into small cloth bags and place with clothes.
- Insect Spray for Plants: Blend 6 cloves, crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 tbs. Dried hot pepper and 1 tbs. Pure soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Let sit 1 or 2 days, strain and use.

Window Cleaner

- Use ½ cup vinegar in 1 gallon of warm water. Use lemon juice and dry soft cloth. Use newspaper to dry glass.

Septic System Cleaner

- Use a professional service every 2 or 3 years. Chemical treatments don't work and some can actually harm your system.

All – Purpose Insecticide

- 1 bulb of garlic, 1 small onion, 1 tablespoon cayenne (red) pepper, 2 tablespoons liquid soap, 1 quart water, spray bottle. Finely chop onion and garlic; mix well. When foam subsides, strain into spray bottle. Keep refrigerated. Good for 1 – 2 weeks.

House and Garden natural Insecticide:

- 2 tablespoons liquid soap, 1 quart water, spray bottle. Mix soap and water; add to spray bottle; spray plants evenly, aiming directly at pests when possible.

Marigolds in the Yard

- There are several things to do when trying to protect yourself and kids from those nasty bugs in the yard during the summer. One thing to do is plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides. Try putting a Bounce dryer sheet on your belt or in your sock, the sheet will mask your smell and ward off the bugs.