

## SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

For this	Try this
Air refresher	Find source of odor and deal with it. Open windows to ventilate. To scent air, use herbal bouquets, pure vanilla on a cotton ball, or simmer cinnamon and cloves.
Ants (in house)	Locate entry point and seal with caulk. Remove all sources of food and water. Kill visible ants. Wash countertops, cabinets and floor with equal parts of vinegar and water to deter ant infestation. ALSO, there is a herb called "tansy" that is repulsive to ants. Lay cut branches by windows or wherever they come in; they won't!
Brass polish	Use paste made from equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.
Car battery corrosion	Pour baking soda and water or cola over battery posts and scrub with a wire brush.
Chrome polish	Vinegar.
Cleaners: general	Liquid castile soap. Use as directed or dissolve 4 Tbl baking soda in 1 qt. warm water.
Coffee cup stain removal	Rub with moist salt or baking soda.
Copper cleaner	Use paste made from equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse completely afterward to prevent corrosion.
Decal removal	Soak in hot water if practical; otherwise use white vinegar or coat it with peanut butter and let it soak overnight.
Dishwashing	Washing dishes by hand with liquid soap or mild detergent is preferable to using strong electric dishwasher detergents.
Disinfectant	Wash items with soap and water or with borax or washing soda (sodium carbonate) in water; deodorizes, too.
Drain cleaner	Try plunger first. Then pour 1/2 cup baking soda down, followed by 1/2 cup vinegar; wait a few minutes and pour in 2 quarts boiling water. Repeat if needed. If

	this fails, rent or buy a drain snake.
Fertilizer	Compost and organic fertilizers.
Fleas on pets	Vacuum twice a week with agitator vacuum; dispose of vacuum bags in trash. Wash pet bedding. Use flea comb on pets, drowning fleas in hot soapy water. Restrict pet access to human living areas until infestation is over.
Floor cleaner	1 cup vinegar plus 2 gallons of water. For unfinished wood floors, add 1 cup linseed oil. To remove wax buildup, scrub in club soda, let soak and wipe clean.
Furniture polish	Almond, olive or vegetable oil and lemon juice in a 2:1 ratio.
Garbage disposal deodorizer	Use lemons or baking soda.
Hand cleaner	Rub hands with baby oil, vegetable oil or margarine, then wash with soap and water.
Insects on plants	Identify insects on plants and select appropriate control; least toxic methods include hand or water spray removal, soapy water spray, barriers and traps.
Laundry bleach	Use borax on all clothes or 1/2 cup white vinegar in rinse water to brighten dark clothing. Non-chlorinated bleach also works well.
Laundry detergent	Laundry soap or a liquid detergent. Use 1/4 to 1/2 baking soda in rinse as softener.
Linoleum floor polish	Skim milk (it doesn't smell, really!!).
Mildew remover	A non-chlorinated scouring powder cleans mildew stains from grout; scrub hard.
Moths in clothes	Thoroughly clean any used clothing or furniture before introducing into home. Wash woolens before storing; store in tight container. Vacuum rugs, behind and under furniture. Shake out woolens periodically.
Oven cleaner	As a preventative measure, cover the oven bottom with a sheet of aluminum foil. Clean up spills promptly. To clean, use baking soda, soap and water with a copper scrubber and lots of elbow grease. Or use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or non-caustic oven cleaner.

Paint (oil based)	Latex paint; avoid aerosols.
Porcelain stain removal	Baking soda.
Refrigerator deodorizer	Open box of baking soda.
Roaches	Remove all sources of food and water. Remove hiding places such as old newspapers, garbage bags and other clutter. Caulk or plug cracks and crevices. Last resort is to use boric acid (a poison). This must be kept away from pets and children.
Rug/carpet cleaner	Sprinkle baking soda; then vacuum.
Scouring powder	Baking soda or non-chlorinated scouring powder.
Silver cleaner	Rub gently with baking soda and damp sponge (large objects). For small objects place in hot pot of water on stove with small piece of aluminum foil; add 1 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon salt; boil 2-3 minutes.
Slugs and snails	Remove tall grass and debris from vicinity of garden. Use beer traps (replenish frequently) or hand capture in the evening. Sheet copper is most effective barrier.
Stain removal	Depends on type of spill. Treat as quickly as possible and blot as much liquid as you can with paper towel or cloth (don't rub). For most stains, try cold water first, then hot water with a little detergent.
Stainless steel cleaner	Baking soda.
Toilet bowl cleaner	Baking soda and castile soap.
Tub and tile cleaner	Use vinegar full-strength on a sponge, then use baking soda as scouring powder; rinse well.
Wine stain removal	Water or rubbing alcohol.
Window cleaner	1/2 cup vinegar in 1 qt. warm water for inside windows. For outside windows, use soap and water; rinse well and dry.